Supporters ask GMA: Review appointments

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

JANUARY 28, 2001 ★ 64 PAGES 5 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 51

No. 2 post a toss-up between Nene, Tito

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA

IT'S A toss up for the vice presidency between Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Senate Minority Leader Teofisto Guingona Jr., according to insiders in the Macapagal administration.

The same sources described Sen. Franklin

NO. 2 POST/ A16

TODAY IN THE

- The memory of Maningning Miclat
- At home with Chuck Mathay
- The street kids of Teatro Palaboy

AFP salutes Gloria

'Even if I'm a woman, I'm just one of the guys'

BY DONNA S. CUETO

EXACTLY a week after she took her oath of office, and amid rumors of dissension and destabilization plots, President Macapagal-Arroyo was formally welcomed by the Armed Forces as commander in chief and given full military honors.

The President attended two ceremonies yesterday in Camp Aguinaldo—the first wherein she was given a 21-gun salute and presented to Navy, Air Force and Army officials at the General Headquarters grandstand; and the second, when she addressed the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association and expressed "deep gratitude" for its participation in People Power II.

In both ceremonies, she expressed confidence in the military and praised its display of courage and dedication to democracy during the uprisings in 1986 and 2001, which toppled Presidents Ferdinand Marcos and Joseph Estrada.

She also said her being a woman did not pose a hindrance to being one with the military.

After the first program, Ms Macapagal had a closed-door conference with all active military generals at the museum of the AFP Theater.

She refused to give details of what transpired at the conference, telling reporters: "No ambush interviews, please."

She was dressed in a white blouse, dark blue slacks and high-heeled shoes.

The military and police generals who were at Edsa, led by AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes, were all present to welcome the President.

Also there was retired Gen. Eduardo Ermita, acting defense secretary and incoming presidential adviser on the peace process.

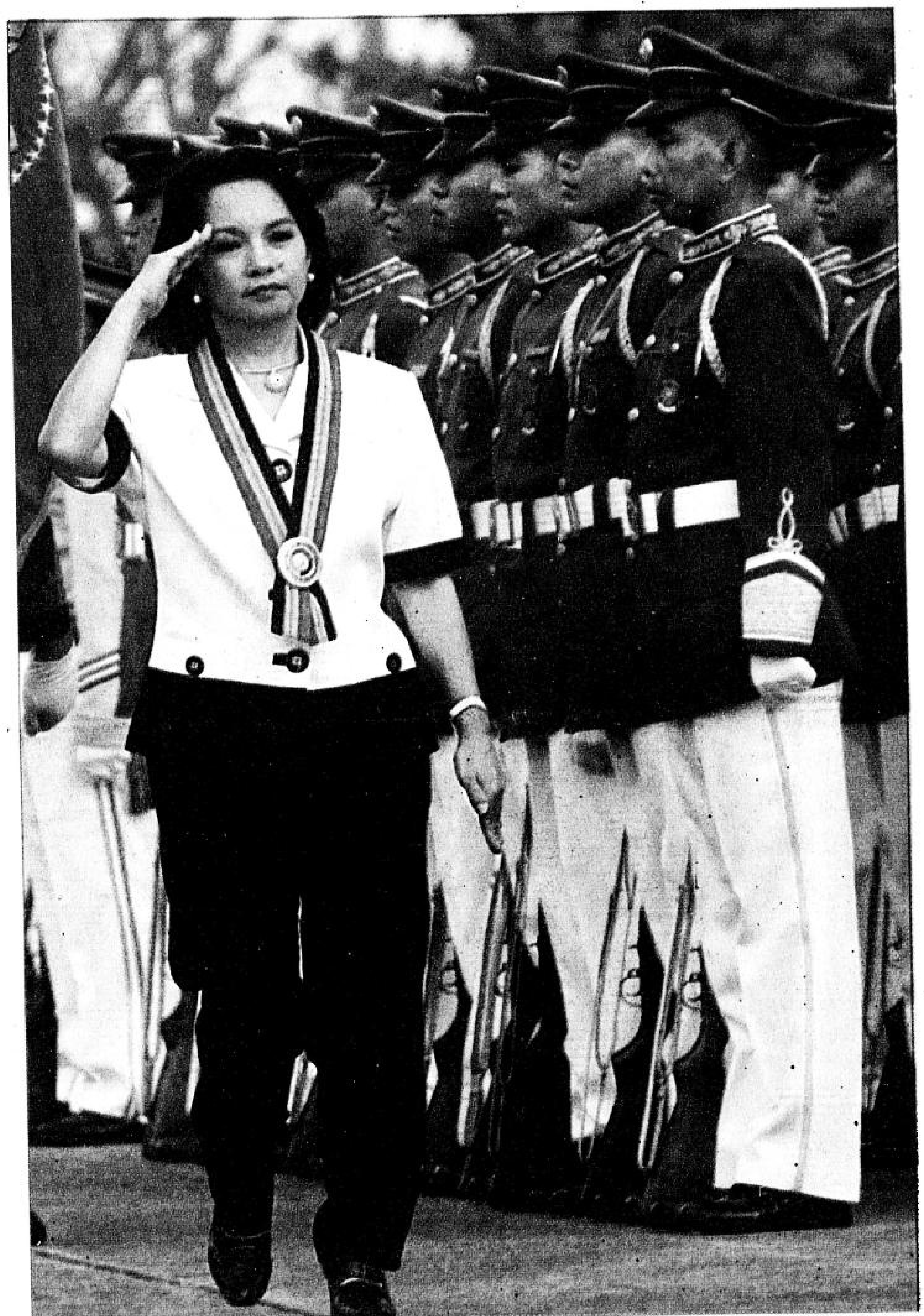
In her first speech, Ms Macapagal said: "This is a golden opportunity to renew old ties and forge new friendships with retired and active military officers who, over the years, have offered their lives and labors."

She praised "the men and women of the Armed Forces of the Philippines for your inspiring support at Edsa II," and said: "Where do we go from here?"

Ms Macapagal admitted that internal security was a top concern of her administration.

"Internal security must be ensured and in-

AFP/ A16



PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo gets full military honors on Saturday at Camp Aguinaldo where she also addressed the annual convention of the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association. EDWIN BACASMAS

Three lessons to learn from aborted Senate trial

BY RAUL J. PALABRICA

ANALYSIS

THERE are valuable lessons to be learned from the first ever impeachment trial in the country even if it ended without a clear verdict.

No matter, because the punishment which should have been imposed on former President Estrada had he been found guilty of the charges can no longer be imposed.

He has resigned or, from Estrada's point of view, "stepped down" from office.

For the sake of the public good, we are well-advised, especially government officials, to take the lessons to heart.

First of these lessons is that "the people will not hesitate to take things into their hands if their elected representatives fail to live up to their sworn duties and responsibilities."

Second, it is no longer acceptable for banks to assume a "see-no-evil-hear-no-evil" attitude.

Third is the unethical practices employed by lawyers to defend the interests of their clients.

The audience that monitored the proceedings on radio and television did not have to be lawyers or knowledgeable with the inner workings of the law to understand that the 11 senators had made a pre-judgment of the case.

By preventing the disclosure of the envelope's contents, the impression was created that they were prepared to sacrifice the truth to save Estrada from the ignominy of being found guilty of the impeachment charges.

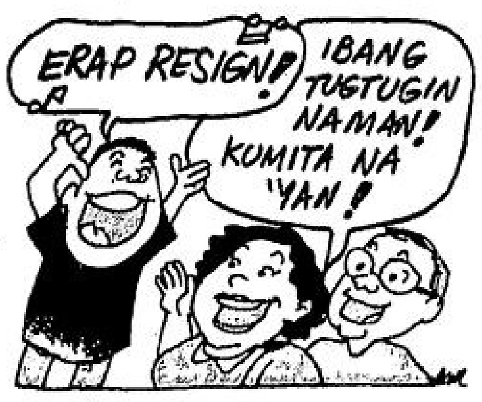
The youth, who composed 90 percent of the people who participated in mass actions against the deposed president, have served notice that they will raise their voices in protest if their representatives play around with the people's mandate.

The people have seen the power of their collective strength against an act they considered immoral or unconscionable. Like the genie that emerged from the lamp, that awareness will be difficult to bottle up again.

The controversy caused by the Jose Velarde account should serve as a lesson to banking institutions about the need to be more careful in the acceptance of deposits from their clients.

While it is true that it is difficult to refuse a sitting president from opening bank accounts, the banks should make sure that the minimum requirements on the true identification of the depositor have to be complied with.

THREE/ A16


ERAP RESIGN!
IBANG TUGTUGIN NAMAN! KUMITA NA 'YAN!

'Outraged,' 'upstaged,' 'backstaged' celebrate

BY CHRISTINE HERRERA

VICTORY has many fathers and mothers and they all have to be thanked and extolled.

In lieu of the inaugural parties that the new President, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, has dispensed with, the alumni of People Power II let their hair down in two nights of fun and sharing to pay tribute to the "heroes" of the nationwide Edsa uprising that ousted Joseph Estrada.

The Estrada Resign Movement (ERM), the Kongreso ng Mamamayang

OUTRAGED/ A16

All hail the nameless, faceless at Edsa

BY DOLLY ORENDAIN-ESCOBAR AND JOAN ORENDAIN

THERE were the name names—Arroyo, Davide, Reyes, De Villa, Ramos, Aunor. And then there were the nameless and faceless legion who kept vigil at Edsa and elsewhere. Ordinary Filipinos who made it happen.

The street scenes at Edsa were poignant, underscoring the truism that we are our brother's keepers indeed.

Young female students hunkered over a portable stove on the sidewalk, boiled water for instant coffee and fried eggs for the hungry and the weary.

Other students and their teachers prepared skits on-the-spot to entertain the vigil-keepers and keep them awake. They were probably from Poveda, an exclusive girls' school nearby. They kept the crowd in high spirits and, when not performing, drew posters right on the pavement.

Older people, some veterans of Edsa I who were too weak to make it to Edsa II, were there in spirit, and in their contributions of packed lunches, juice, pizza and candies.

The multitude also brought food, juice and water with them to pass around among the less fortunate. Packets of crackers thrown from the Rosario flyover at first frightened the people below into thinking they were under attack.

A baker on a bicycle brought his *pan de sal* to the shrine. The raggedly dressed donor touched his beneficiaries, a few of them swearing he looked like the same baker who had passed his bread around at

ALL/ A16

JOAN BONDOC/DENNIS SABANGAN

PEOPLE, people everywhere. Faces in the crowd. But who are they? Unknown and unsung, it was they who made possible People Power II.

Second FRONT PAGE

YUNG MGA KARAPAT-DAPAT LANG PO SANA!

$11.6-M cargo freed

BY TJ BURGUNIO

CUSTOMS authorities yesterday lifted the hold order on two Hong Kong-bound shipments of bank notes totaling $11.6 million, saying these were properly documented.

A top Customs official, who asked not to be named, said the intelligence information provided by some officials that the money belonged to ousted President Joseph Estrada turned out to be false.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura declared that the export of foreign currency by local banks was regular and part of banking operations.

Tess Roque, acting Customs district collector at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, said the two armored vans containing the money were released to bank representatives around 3 a.m. Saturday.

Customs officers and justice officials, led by prosecutor Severino Gana, gave the clearance for the release of the shipments, she said.

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Review appointments, supporters ask Gloria

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

TWO organizations active in the Erap Resign campaign yesterday urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to retract recent controversial appointments to safeguard her administration's credibility and that she take a more "hands-on" approach in choosing new officials.

Satur Ocampo of the Bayan Muna party said the government should not be afraid to let go of the controversial officials since it should have "candor" in its relationship with the electorate.

Tess Baltazar of Konsyensiyang Pilipino said the administration and its committee screening candidates to top positions were currently under "so much pressure" from politicians who wanted to occupy juicy posts or have their own men placed in office.

But while maintaining that groups like hers were not criticizing the new administration but only stating "observations," Baltazar said the President should take back the recent appointments in her government that have become controversial.

"For it's own credibility, they should sacrifice these appointees," she said.

The two were apparently referring to new National Security Adviser Lisandro Abadia, whose appointment prompted Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado to resign, and Philippine National Police chief Leandro Mendoza, who was recently accused by an anti-crime group of "coddling criminals."

Running priest Robert Reyes said Abadia and Mendoza should resign out of *delicadeza* (sense of honor).

"If a person has a pending case, then he should not be appointed," Baltazar said.

"The problem is that officials like these could not be removed because of their close connections to their political patrons," she added.

Ocampo also told reporters yesterday that Ms Macapagal should be more involved in appointing candidates to high positions or as an alternative, give clearer guidelines to the selection committee which was screening possible office-holders.

Ocampo said the President had admitted that she only knew some of those who were appointed through their "reputation" and not because she had personal knowledge of their competence and integrity.

"It's important that she really trusts the people who are around her so that when she implements a major program, they would march as one to her beat. What is troubling is that these officials could turn out to be loyal not to Gloria but to their political patrons," he said.

Ocampo said traditional politicians were taking advantage of the fact that Ms Macapagal did not have a strong political support base.

Bishops urge exile for Erap

THE HEAD of the Catholic Bishops Conference in the Philippines on yesterday, called for deposed President Joseph Estrada to leave the country to ensure he will not be used to destabilize his successor, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

"It is better if he just leaves," Archbishop Orlando Quevedo said after a meeting of the bishops.

The bishops expressed concern that Estrada, a former top movie star who still retains popularity in some impoverished sectors, could be used as a "rallying point" for destabilizing Ms Macapagal.

He did not elaborate on how Estrada, who was toppled in a military-backed, popular uprising last week, could be forced to leave.

His remarks came amid speculation about an alleged plot by some military men to restore Estrada to power.

While some legislators have also called for Estrada to leave the country, government officials say they cannot force him to go and that they want him in the country to face criminal charges.

Estrada allies have also denied the ousted president is behind any destabilization plot while security officials have brushed off the rumors. *AFP*

Angara retiring

BY CYNTHIA D. BALANA

FORMER Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara yesterday said he would soon be retiring from politics to devote his time to his family and his farm.

Speaking to reporters at the National Leaders Assembly of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, Angara, who is the LDP chair, said he has already spent 22 years of his life in public service and that it was time for him to go.

Also yesterday, former Rep. Edcel Lagman resigned from the LDP because, according to him, "the opposition character of the LDP has made my membership in the party clearly untenable."

Lagman said that having worked for the ouster of deposed President Joseph Estrada and the installation of a new national leadership, he could not remain a member of an oppositionist LDP. He cited "unmistakable" signs pointing to the emergence of the LDP as an opposition party.

Angara, who was nominated with 16 other LDP members to run in the May senatorial elections, said he would decline the nomination.

Jimmy Tan eyed for top health post

BY NORMAN BORDADORA

THE ONE-WEEK-OLD administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo continues to go through the wringer in filling up top positions in government.

At the Department of Health, a health secretary under the Ramos administration is reported as being considered by Ms Macapagal as a replacement for resigned Health Secretary Alberto Romualdez.

The name of Jaime Galvez Tan, who briefly served under former President Fidel Ramos when the popular Juan Flavier resigned to run for senator, was reported to have been included on the short list of candidates to head the DOH for his "professionalism."

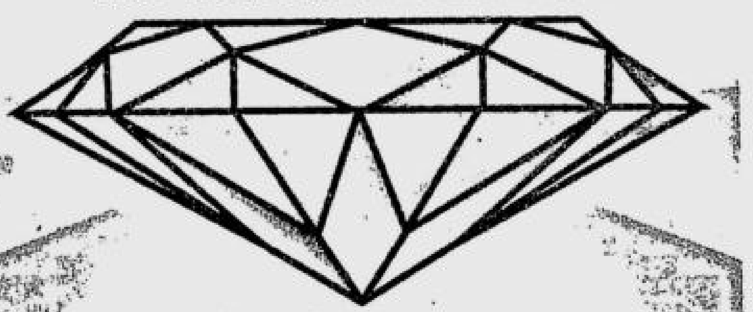
The prospects of resigned undersecretary Susie Pineda-Mercado, also reported as being considered for the post, became uncertain after the resignation of her husband Orlando Mercado from the Department of National Defense.

Pineda-Mercado was the department chief of staff under Romualdez. He and Romualdez were the prime movers of the Estrada administration's Health Sector Reform Agenda.

"The health workers would rather that Tan be appointed to the post than Pineda-Mercado. Remember, many employees were displaced from their current assignments because of the previous administration's re-structuring scheme," said a health official, who asked not to be named.

In Davao City, Mindanaons in the Cabinet of President Macapagal reacted strongly to criticism raised against their appointment even as they vowed to "deliver early results" and provide excellent performance to prove their detractors wrong.

Undersecretary Jesus Dureza, presidential assistant for Southeastern Mindanao, said it was unfortunate that the criticism were raised only after President Macapagal picked "two unknown gentlemen who come from Mindanao, not known to the Makati Business Club" to serve her Cabinet.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Gloria makes pilgrimage to Manaoag

BY YOLANDA FUERTES
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

MANAOAG, Pangasinan—Amid cheers and a warm welcome from about 10,000 Pangasinenses and pilgrims, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo paid homage to the miraculous Our Lady of Manaoag here yesterday, a week after she assumed the presidency through the Edsa People Power II.

Ms Macapagal, along with former President Corazon Aquino and other officials, trooped to this pilgrimage town to attend a Thanksgiving Mass at the Our Lady of Manaoag Shrine and to pray for her administration to succeed.

Ms Macapagal arrived here at 3 p.m. aboard a helicopter. With her were Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr., former Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. and former National Economic and Development Authority and economics professor Solita Monsod.

Ms Macapagal said she chose Pangasinan as site of her first presidential visit outside of Metro Manila to "personally thank" her province mates for praying and supporting her during the times of crisis.

The President's mother Dr. Eva Macaraeg is a native of Binalonan town, which is a 30-minute ride from here.

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New witness vs Erap

AN IMPORTANT new witness has surfaced to give key testimony of alleged corruption against fallen president Joseph Estrada, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said yesterday.

Perez told radio station dzBB that the new witness, who he described as "close to ex-President Joseph Estrada," had approached the justice department on his own to give "major testimony in a new case against Estrada."

He would not give details of the accusations, saying this would give the witness' identity away and endanger his life. *AFP*

13 senators backing Gloria in resolution

By J. L. Javellana

DESPITE a quarrel over Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr.'s refusal to sign, 13 senators are filing tomorrow a resolution expressing "recognition and 'support" for President Macapagal-Arroyo.

A senator told the INQUIRER that four of the 11 senators who voted against a crucial evidence in the impeachment trial of Joseph Estrada have signed the resolution, which was principally authored by Senate Minority Leader Teofisto Guingona Jr.

The four senators are Ramon Revilla, Robert Jaworski, Francisco Tatad and John Osmeña who were known to be staunch Estrada allies during the trial.

They reportedly signed even as their colleagues decided to form the opposition group and bowed to support the legal challenge to Ms Macapagal's assumption of the presidency.

A senator said 13 signatures are enough to pass the resolution since this already comprise the Senate majority. The senator, however, could not say if the 13 senators could also comprise the "new Senate majority" to be led by the Lakas senators.

The senator said that among the 10 senators who voted for the opening of evidence on Estrada's alleged P3.3-billion account, only Pimentel did not sign. The rest are Senators Guingona, Franklin Drilon, Loren Legarda-Leviste, Renato Cayetano, Rodolfo Biazon, Sergio Osmeña III, Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Juan Flavier, and Raul Roco.

The Senate resolution was supposed to be filed as early as last Monday.

Pimentel admitted he had a heated exchange with Guingona when the latter tried to ask for his signature.

"As a matter of fact, there were three signatures at the time when Guingona wanted me to sign and so we had a little argument. I told him, 'Tito, I'm not going to be threatened by anyone' and of course he got mad," Pimentel said yesterday.

Another senator said there was a shouting match between Guingona and Pimentel, strongest contenders for the vice presidency.

Pimentel said he was not going to sign the Guingona resolution ever.

"I already issued a statement and I went to Edsa. What more do you want of me? I said if it's only a matter of expressing support for the new administration, I don't think you could ask for more," Pimentel said.

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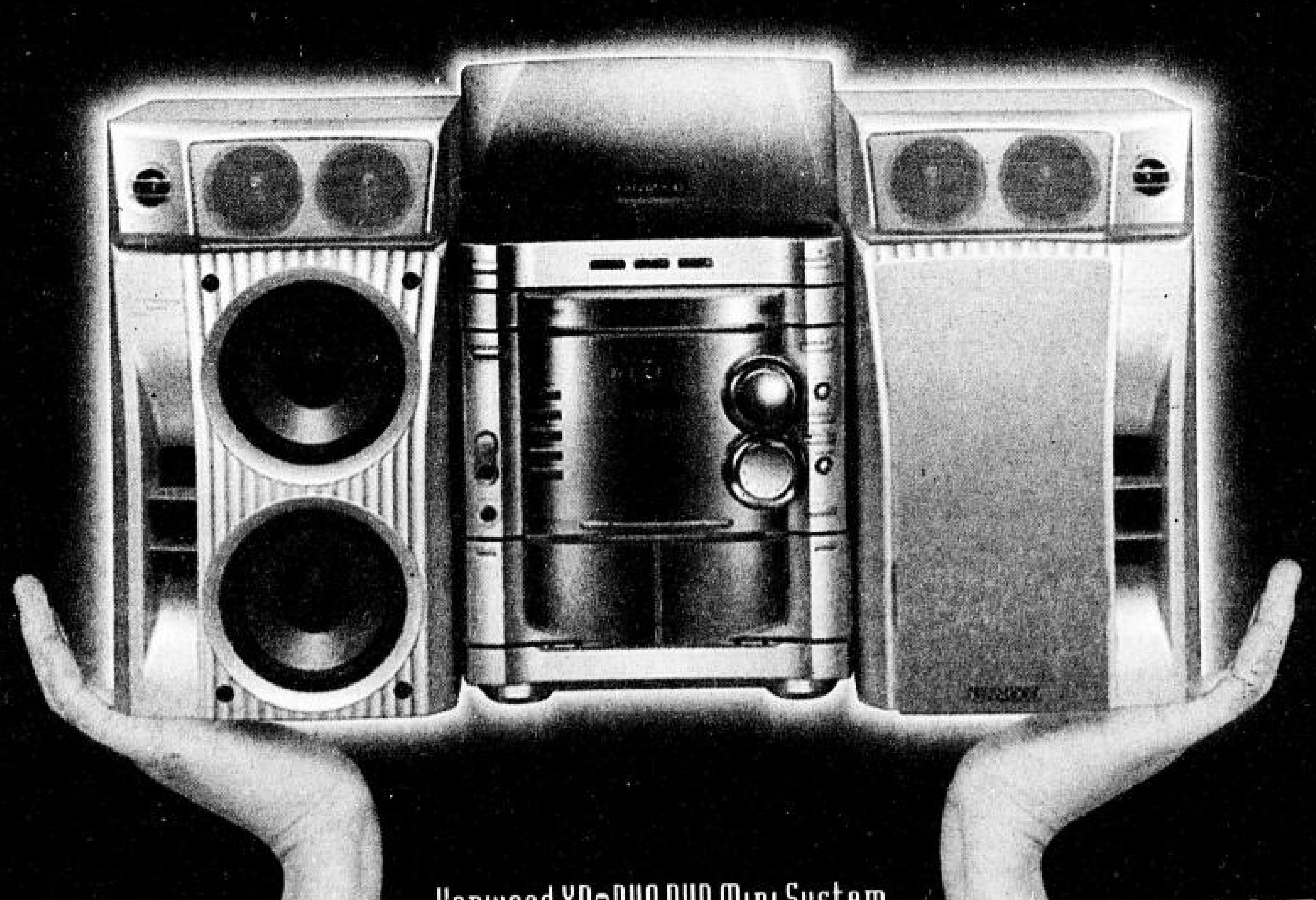

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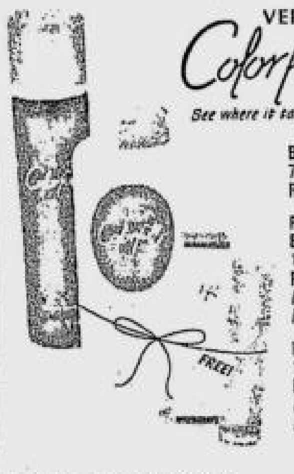

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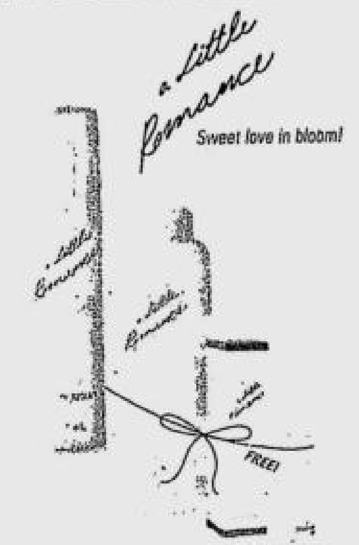

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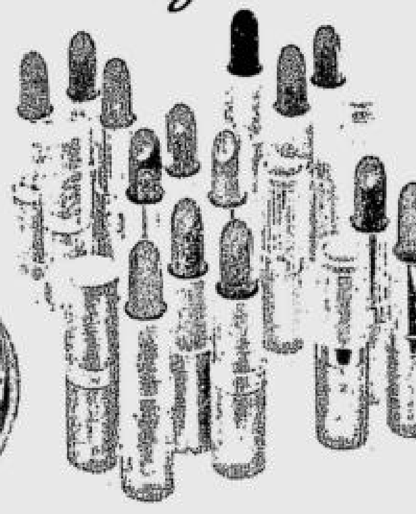

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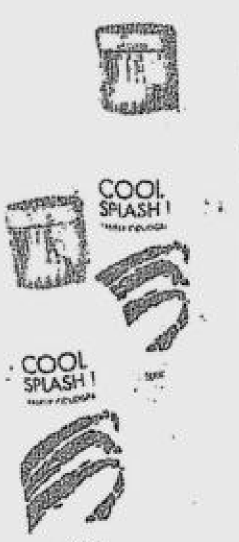

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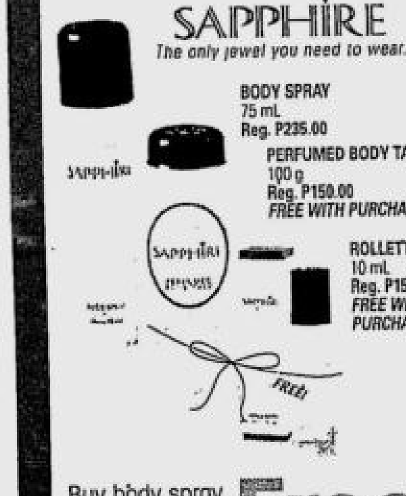

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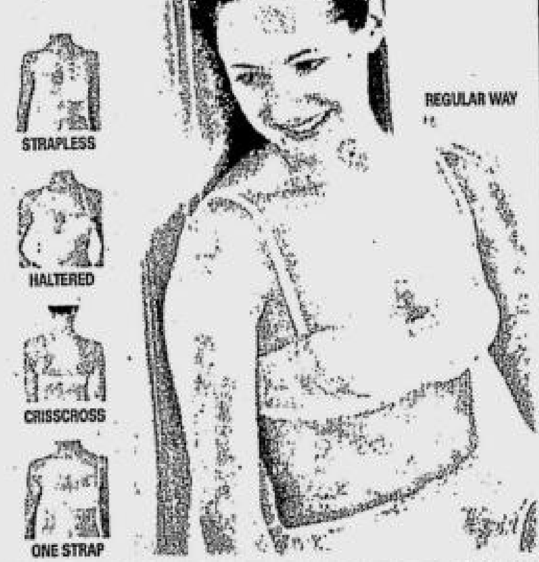

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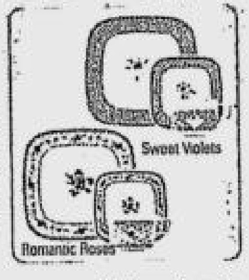

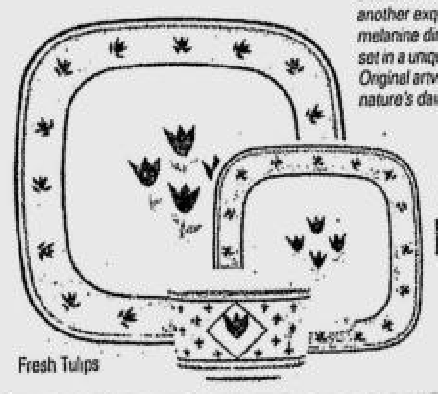

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OPINION

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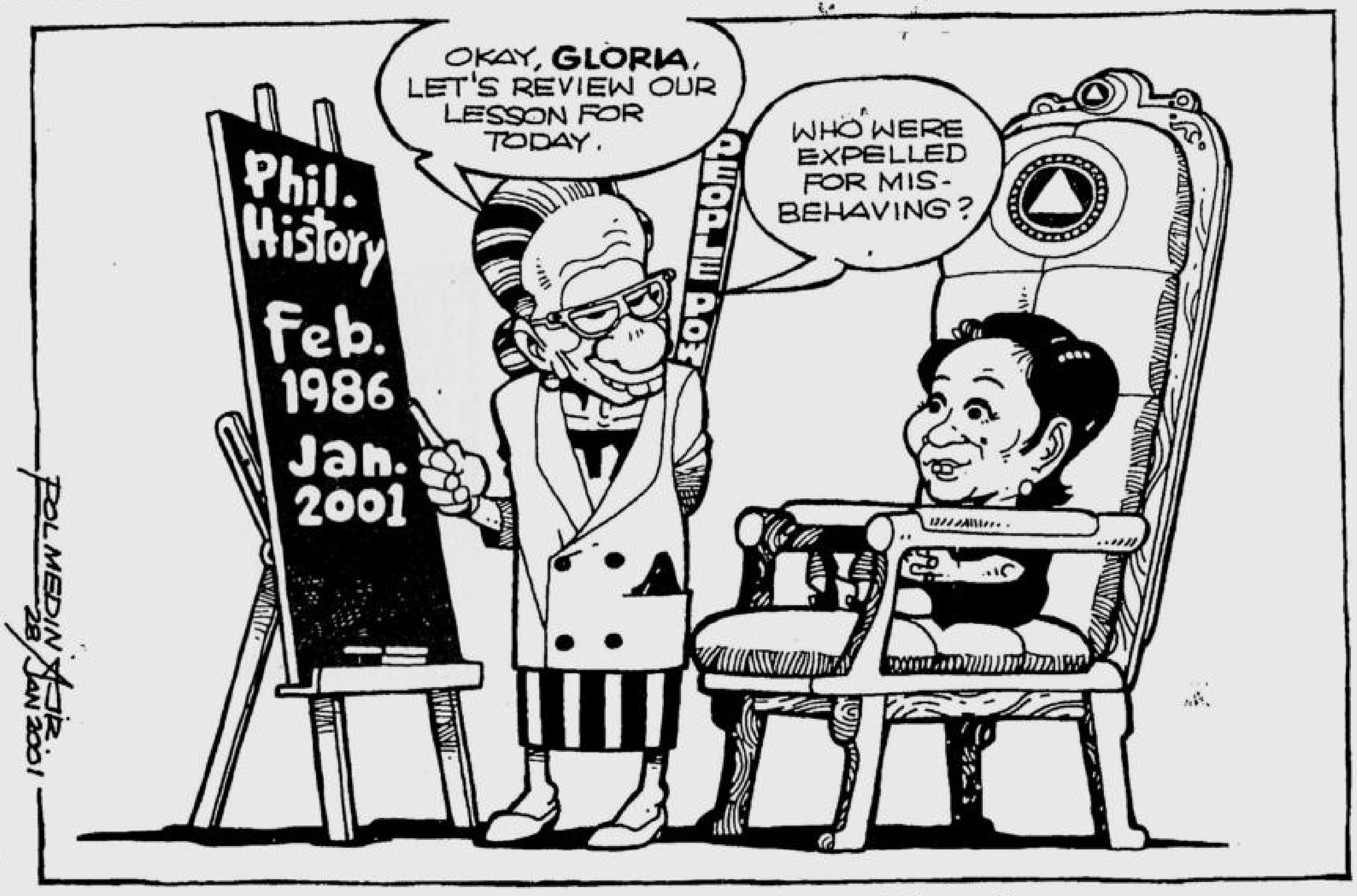
OKAY, GLORIA, LET'S REVIEW OUR LESSON FOR TODAY.
WHO WERE EXPELLED FOR MIS-BEHAVING?
Phil. History Feb. 1986 Jan. 2001
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‘Good’ Gloria

EDITORIALS

ON HER first day in Malacañang, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo told Palace staff she does not aspire to be a “great president” but merely a “good” one. “Help me be a good president,” she asked them.

The heights which she wishes her presidency to attain is quite modest (pun not intended). It is apparent she does not want to work against the towering expectations of a people so used to pinning inordinate hopes on their leaders only to see them dashed. A trained economist, the new President knows astutely that supply is a function of demand. Lower the demand for leadership and reforms, and you can control the supply, and even provide a surplus.

A “good president,” Ms Macapagal can't help but be, unless she tries mightily to be otherwise. She has two things going for her to meet her—not the people's—expectation. First, she has the lesson of history. It is not for anything that she considers former President Corazon Aquino her role model. Like Aquino, she rode on the crest of people power. But given the benefit of hindsight, Aquino would have tamed the people's runaway expectations at the start of her tumultuous term. She was deprived of that benefit. The beneficiary of her painful lesson is Ms Macapagal.

Second, like Aquino who certainly did no worse than Ferdinand Marcos, Ms Macapagal could do no worse than her predecessor. The damage Marcos did to the socio-political fabric and the economy was incalculable, if not almost irreparable. If despite her occasional lapses of judgment and bouts of short-sightedness and even ineptitude during her term, Aquino is still regarded well by the people—so well regarded in fact that she could still weave the magic of Edsa and summon people to the streets to topple a malefactor—it is because she held the fort of democracy against the residual tyranny of the despot she had vanquished.

In fact, Aquino played the classic postmodern game. She established the binary opposition from early on so that during the times when the flaws of her administration were exploited by undemocratic forces, she would accentuate the contrasts. Thus against the horrors of Marcos, her administration would be judged in a kinder light.

Ms Macapagal can lapse back to playing the binary opposites when things get a little indistinct. In fact, she can do a better job at it than Aquino because she is clearly the opposite of Joseph Estrada. Against his dimwittedness, she is smart and intelligent. Against his contempt for work, she has a work ethic. Against the general awfulness of his rule, her presidency can at least be “good.”

The danger is when the lines of distinction blur. The problem is that compared to the binary opposites of Aquino and Marcos, which are fundamental and clearly delineated, the binary opposites of Gloria and Erap are shallow and nebulous. The two faces can in fact meld. If she does not watch out, Ms Macapagal may yet become the Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde of Philippine politics.

Bad decision

THE BLURRING of opposites is evident when Ms Macapagal appoints too many politicians of the old mold to juicy positions out of a sense of gratitude that admittedly is culturally Pinoy. The antipodals become vague when she appoints controversial military and police officers to important positions without proper screening and evaluation of capabilities.

The ruckus over the appointment of Lisandro Abadia as national security adviser could have been avoided had Ms Macapagal been a little more sensitive to the defense establishment that had uncovered questionable use of military pension funds when they were handled by the retired general. She seems too eager to repay her debt to the military for abandoning Estrada and turning the tide in her favor, forgetting that it was the people who had by their numbers put the pressure on the Armed Forces to defect. In any case, she has appointed a lot of retired generals in her administration. Even her executive secretary is one. A civilian security adviser would have been less problematic.

The same shortsightedness affects her choice of Leandro Mendoza as police director general. A perfunctory background check would have shown him to be too controversial for the position. At the least, she should have consulted her Interior Secretary Jose D. Lina, who should have had a say on the matter. Lina is a politician who has a track record of working closely with citizens' groups. He could have given her some sound advice.

A “good” president should at least fulfill the basics of discernment and consultation. This early, Ms Macapagal is showing signs of departing from the goal she has set for herself.

Let's not squander Edsa 2

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THAT'S what we did with Edsa 1. Despite the oppressions we suffered during the martial law regime, we did practically nothing to redress them. We did depose Marcos and his ilk, but that was all. We have not avenged our ordeal of more than 13 cruel years under his ruthless rule. His abuses were so soon forgotten, if not even blandly and stupidly forgiven. The villains of that evil era are still at large.

The Freedom Constitution itself had expressly mandated the eradication of the iniquitous vestiges of the previous regime. But where we should have forever stamped out the virus of the dictatorship, we allowed it to spread unchecked to further enfeeble our democracy.

The physical reminders of that despotic government are still all-around us to mock us for our foolishness. The ugly stone face of Marcos continues to blemish the natural beauty of the mountains of La Union when it should have been blasted long ago as an unavoidable obscenity. Public places—parks and highways and buildings—are still named after the tyrant and his family as if they were splendid heroes deserving our tribute.

Is a single street in Germany still named after Hitler? Does any public hall or building in Italy remember Mussolini? Is there any place in the whole of Norway that preserves the disgusting memory of Quisling? Yet we in the Philippines still have a Marcos Highway and an Imelda Avenue, among many other flatteries to the conjugal rulers, although their very names evoke contempt and demean rather than honor our history.

Worse than all this is the way we have welcomed back the despised sachems of that arrogant regime. We have not called them to account for their abuses or accused them of robbing us blind and plundering our patrimony. We have not demanded contrition for their transgressions. We have not punished them at all for their unrepented sins. Instead, we have knowingly restored them to power and prestige, to lord it over us again as in that timid past.

Imelda Marcos is still the imperious lady commanding her mindless loyalists. Her conviction for graft was reversed by the Supreme Court, and her other criminal cases are in deep slumber, perhaps never to awake. She is reportedly aiming again for elective office where she can continue to deceive her gullible subjects. Her children are still in the seats of power at public expense.

Until a week ago, the present government and business hierarchy still included the insolent elite of the martial law years. The masters then are still in power now—Juan Ponce Enrile, Blas F. Ople, Francisco Tatad, Edgardo Angara, Estelito Mendoza, Eduardo Cojuangco *et al ad nauseam*, although their idol has fallen in condign ignominy. Still in character, these remnants of the Estrada clique appear to be no more principled now than they were before during the heyday of their other hero.

We have just successfully staged Edsa 2 to correct corruption in the highest office in the land, as in Edsa 1. The hundreds of thousands massed at Edsa 2 also denounced with one voice the 11 senator-judges of the impeachment court who shamelessly toadied to their lord and master and suppressed the shocking truth about his avarice.

And so, now that Edsa 2 has been won, what do we do next? Should we be satisfied that Estrada has been booted out and the cancer in Malacañang has been excised? Shall we now let our guard down because a new President is at the helm and the supercrook and his accomplices have been banished in disgrace?

We should not squander Edsa 2 as we squandered Edsa 1. The wrongs that triggered Edsa 2 should not remain unpunished like the wrongs that triggered Edsa 1. We should learn from Edsa 1 not to make Edsa 2 another meaningless exercise of people power and indignation. Otherwise, the evils of our society, and especially the shortcomings of our political system, will fester and proliferate and eventually make an Edsa 3 necessary.

In 1986, we had the wonderful opportunity to reform our government and cleanse it of its vermin. We forfeited that heaven-sent advantage by doing nothing. We wasted that extraordinary providence with our inaction. Instead of correcting the abuses of the Marcos cabal, we institutionalized and condoned and even meekly rewarded them. It was this default that ultimately led to Edsa 2.

Let us not commit that fatal mistake again. Instead, let us call to account those miscreants who provoked Edsa 2, with Joseph Estrada himself as the principal offender and his families as co-principals. The evidence against them is so incredible it has got to be the truth. Erap and his clan should not be simply dismissed in a mistaken spirit of forgiveness or on the idiotic excuse that he has been ousted and de-fanged.

His official family should also explain their own misconduct. While they could commit this without accountability as long as they had their president's protection, the party is over for them, and they're left with the dirty dishes. Let us now categorically reject the notion that once a public official ends his tenure, the law can no longer reach him. Marcos' minions escaped, but Erap's lackeys must not.

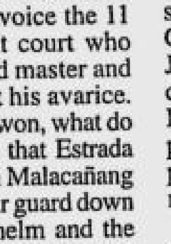
Erap's confederates in crime should not go scot-free either. Lucio Tan, Dante Tan, Lucio Co, George Go, Jaime Dichaves, Atong Ang, Mark Jimenez and many others were Estrada's favored courtiers. These cronies should be closely probed. If found to have committed offenses or enjoyed purchased privileges, they should be exposed and punished to the full extent of the law. Happy days may be here again, but certainly not for them.

Finally, there are the Craven Eleven in the Senate. Their honor is in tatters, in light especially of rumors that they yielded to Erap's financial persuasions, including a P25 million mansion being built for one of them. They should, of course, be presumed to have voted out of conviction and not greed. But if doubts about their motives are confirmed, they deserve the unforgiving rigor of the law and the people's everlasting contempt.

Edsa 1 showed us our folly in exalting instead of condemning our oppressors during martial law. Let us not commit the same mistake now by also foolishly absolving Joseph Estrada and his gang of thieves.

Prophet or profit?

MOMENTS



Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

WE have in today's Gospel (Lk. 4:21-30) an account of people power in Nazareth when the people rejected Jesus and drove Him out of the town. But unlike Edsa, Jesus was thrown out not because He was a dictator or a crook, but because He told and stood for the truth. His words hurt their sensibilities, shattered their comfort zones and challenged their parameters, so they rejected Him.

This is the fate of the prophets and all who fight for what is true, good and beautiful. Persecution is part of a prophet's life.

If you have never experienced persecution and rejection, maybe it is because you never stood for what is true. Maybe you just say what people want to hear and do what they want you to do. Maybe you have taken the easy road of compromise.

* * *

Have you ever been persecuted because of your faith? Have you ever put your life, your property, your friends, your image on the line for the sake of your God? How far are you willing to walk the road with your God? Is it not true that we often conveniently drop our God when He and His word become a block to our personal agenda?

* * *

There are many beautiful things deep inside you which this world will never understand or care to listen to. It is painful when people misunderstand or misjudge us. Doubly painful when the very people we expect to uphold us—family, friends—are the ones who turn their backs on us. The rejection of Jesus at Nazareth by His own relatives and town mates teaches us to carry out our quest for truth and goodness with zeal and tenacity even if it means being unpopular or being rejected by people dearest and closest to us.

* * *

I hope our new President will be inspired by today's Gospel not to be afraid of being misunderstood or rejected by her so-called political friends and allies in her quest for good governance. Madame President, I wish you: good eyes to see through and see beyond what people around you would like you to see; good ears to really listen to the people and not to what you want or to what people around you want you to hear; a good heart to really listen to your God who has given to you this once-in-a-lifetime privilege of serving our people in a special way. Continue to scan the horizon for new ways, new people, new means of serving our people well. The bottom line is the Filipino people, not the people around you. The rock-bottom line is God expects the very best of you. Praying for you, Madame President!

* * *

Have you noticed? The word “prophet” is very close to the word “profit”? Indeed there is a thin line between being a prophet and being a prophet for profit. Let us be vigilant of civic or religious leaders who are false prophets. And while we're at it, let us also watch out for so called charismatic leaders, who, instead of using their charism for service end up using their charisma *para sa atik*. Like Brother——, *may* charisma, *kaya daw ma-atik*!

* * *

Tomorrow, the Arnoldus Family (SVD, SSpS, Pink Sisters) founded by Blessed Arnold Janssen in 1875 will celebrate the feast of Blessed Joseph Freinademetz, our first missionary to China. He worked and sacrificed for the Chinese people. He was noted for being kind and humble, and he really immersed himself in the Chinese life. This Tyrolese wrote: “I have come to love my Chinese people, and I take China and its people and its language as my native country…I would die for them a thousand times over…I still want to be a Chinese in heaven.” That's a prophet without profit—except heaven!

* * *

My wish for you dear reader is that you have a peaceful life. Yes! May you have more peace in your life. And, in turn, be instruments of peace! For peace try this text message I received from my Manang Ming: “REMOVE HATRED FROM YOUR HEART; REMOVE WORRIES FROM YOUR HEAD; LIVE SIMPLY; EXPECT LESS; GIVE MORE; HAVE A DEEP RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.” Come to think of it, it is really up to us if we want to live a peaceful life. Believe me, we really don't need much to be happy in this life. In fact, having too much and wanting to have much more can make us miserable in the end.

* * *

I received an urgent advisory recently saying: Avoid going to malls, restaurants these days. *Magastos kasi*! Being a prophet does not mean putting on a sad and serious face. We all can be prophets of joy and hope, not prophets of doom and gloom!

* * *

May I end with a message to Manong Oscar who turns 50 years old today: Manong, you have a mission. Let your light shine, everything will happen in God's own perfect time! As Papa always told us, a good man is never gone.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help me to stand for goodness, justice and truth, no matter what, in spite of, come what may. Amen.

May election: a test of legitimacy for GMA

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE MAY election is shaping up to be a referendum on the legitimacy of the administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, whose takeover of the presidency now faces a legal challenge from Estrada loyalists.

The formation of the lineups to fill 12 vacancies in the Senate has shown an early polarization between allies of President Macapagal and deposed President Joseph Estrada. Edgardo Angara, who served very briefly as Estrada's executive secretary, moved quickly after Estrada left the presidential palace a week ago to pick up the fragments of the LDP (Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino) and to begin the selection of the opposition's senatorial team.

The great divide between the new administration's supporters and the Estrada loyalists is Edsa 2, the second people power mobilization that drove the venal and incompetent Estrada presidency from office 15 years after the 1986 People Power Revolution toppled the dictator, Ferdinand Marcos. The Macapagal allies are grouped around so-called Edsa Forces. In this new polarization, no new parties are being formed, only new coalitions.

Although Angara moved early to regroup the scattered Estrada allies, it is clear he can't find enough people to fill the ticket of his new coalition composed of the LDP and the Nationalist People's Coalition of Estrada crony, Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, and what remains of Estrada's Partido ng Masang Pilipino. Their defunct umbrella coalition, LAMP, which is not even registered with the Commission on Elections, has dissolved from the heat of the crisis. An LDP party meeting at the Manila Hotel last week named staunch Estrada supporters in the failed impeachment as its core candidates: reelectionist Senators Juan Ponce Enrile, Miriam Defensor-Santiago, and Gregorio Honasan. The three are not the opposition's strongest contenders. They are lashed by widespread public condemnation for voting, together with eight other Estrada allies in the Senate, to suppress the evidence in the second envelope during the impeachment trial.

The opposition ticket is now reviled as a funeral hearse. One evidence of its difficulty in recruiting strong candidates is that the opposition's general assembly had to nominate candidates who are identified as anti-Estrada senators and politicians. The opposition, indulging in wishful thinking, nominated as "guest candidates" such anti-Estrada personalities as Rep. Joker Arroyo, the star of the prosecution team of the House of Representatives, and reelectionist Senators Franklin Drilon, Ramon Magsaysay Jr., and Sergio Osmeña III. These "guests" are unlikely to accept the LDP invitation which they see as a trip to political death. The four are expected to lead the administration Edsa coalition ticket.

Drilon swiftly declined the LDP nomination. Although he still remains a nominal member of Angara's LDP, he and Angara parted ways last month when Drilon bolted Estrada's LAMP coalition, while Angara stuck with Estrada, hoping that he could save the administration amid the snowballing public demand for Estrada's resignation.

The LDP provided the machinery for Estrada in the 1998 election campaign. Today, Angara is trying to rebuild it as the political vehicle of the opposition, but the prospect is very real that the opposition senatorial ticket could be swept out in the May election.

Before the crisis broke out in October, everyone wanted to be in the administration ticket. The situation is the opposite today. That's why Angara, Estrada's press secretary, Ricardo Puno, Estrada's defense secretary Orlando Mercado (if he decides to join the LDP ticket), Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino, and even media celebrity Noli de Castro of ABS-CBN are embarking on political suicide as senatorial candidates of a ticket identified with the malodorous Estrada administration.

The Edsa configuration is benefiting from the euphoria of the new administration and of Edsa itself, the bandwagon of opportunism of defections and the backlash against the corruption of Estrada. I have been told that the Edsa ticket is overloaded with applicants, with more than 30 people seeking inclusion.

I agree with Angara that after this upheaval, we need to restore the role of political parties in organizing ideas and people behind principles. But what's happening is that the parties are not being strengthened. The allies of Estrada are being configurated into a coalition, and the coalition of the Edsa Forces is composed of Macapagal's Lakas-NUCD, Sen. Raul Roco's Aksyon Demokratiko, Lito Osmeña's Promdi, Renato de Villa's Reporma and the Liberal Party of Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas III.

The LDP has a long way to go before it can integrate the smaller opposition parties into a party with one ideology and policy and wipe out the stigma of Estrada. The biggest obstacle to the LDP's effort to win credibility is the Estrada stigma. By May the backlash against Estrada and the momentum for Edsa would still be strongly felt, favoring the Edsa Forces ticket in the Senate and candidates identified with the Lakas-NUCD in the congressional elections. Efforts by the Estrada loyalists to cast doubt on the constitutional and legal basis of the takeover by President Macapagal have made the May election a test of legitimacy, coming from the people themselves.

This might as well be. The new administration, which is not being given a chance by the loyalists of the disgraced Estrada administration to settle down to hard work and repair the legacy of ruins left by Estrada, needs the people's mandate. Popular mandate derived from elections is a more eloquent statement of legitimacy than legal hair-splitting over the decision of the Supreme Court allowing Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. to swear in Macapagal as the constitutional successor to Estrada.

Cabinet women

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

SO far, four women have been named to the Macapagal Cabinet and three of them are from civil society. And although Emy Boncodin was a hardworking, low-key but extremely capable undersecretary at the budget department before a brief stint as secretary in 1998, she has since become part of the women's movement.

Of the three women from civil society, the best known may be Vicky Garchitorena, spokesperson of Kompil, the broad network of non-government anti-Erap groups. Concurrently, Vicky was head of the corporate affairs office of the Ayala conglomerate. Despite this detour to the private sector, however, Vicky has always had her heart in civil society, coming into prominence as an anti-Marcos activist in the early '80s.

Pretty unflappable, Vicky's composure should serve her well in her new post as head of the Presidential Management Staff. The power wielded by the PMS chief is pretty much a function of the character of the person holding it. Officially, the PMS is primarily responsible for paper-pushing, custodian of all documents that pass through the Office of the President, and performing the staff work needed to backstop the prez's every activity.

The post gives the holder extraordinary access to the President, and this is from where power emanates. Will Vicky confine herself to being an efficient, reliable assistant walking in the shadow of her bosses? Or will she use her access to carve out a power center? Let's see how the sainted Vicky, who can sit out a contentious meeting between competing forces without losing her cool, handles the pressures of power. Although this early, I'm betting on Vicky's equanimity to see her—and us—through.

* * *

TO THIS day, I don't know if Dinky Soliman really fell off her chair when the President announced on national TV, on the day she took her oath of office, that she would appoint Dinky to the post of social welfare secretary.

What I do know is that Dinky needed a daylong retreat atop Mt. Banahaw to sort out her conflicted feelings about leaving the world of NGO's, where she has found a home for most of her adult life, to join government. Thankfully, the retreat convinced her to leave her doubts behind and stand, power-dressed in a slim blazer, among the first of the President's Cabinet appointees to be sworn into office.

Trained as a social worker, Dinky has immersed herself in several issues of social import: rural development, agrarian reform, the rights of the urban poor, and women's issues, heading or joining various NGO's that focused on these advocacies. But she shines primarily as a facilitator, helping people of divergent if not clashing interests arrive at a consensus toward a common course of action.

Dinky assumed the chairpersonship of Code NGO, the biggest "network of networks" of NGO's around the country upon her and husband Hec's return from fellowships in Harvard. She was thus in a perfect position to lend her skills at organization and consensus-building when the anti-Erap movement gained momentum. Believe me, it was no joke getting the Makati Business Club to sit across a table from labor leaders and get them to agree on a work stoppage. Or to get representatives of the United Opposition to meet with Sanlakas leaders who wanted Macapagal to resign along with Estrada. I suspect it was this first-hand view of Dinky's ethic of hard work, careful thinking and warm personal touch that convinced Macapagal she needed this petite mother of two in her Cabinet.

Given her background, I look forward to seeing where Dinky will take the social welfare department in this post-People Power II period. The last thing I expect from her is more of the same, and I promise to push her off her chair the minute I spot a photo release of her spoonfeeding an undernourished baby.

* * *

OF the three women from civil society, it is Teresita "Ging" Quintos Deles whom I know best and longest. She is in large part responsible for my choosing a writing life, having been a memorable high school English and literature teacher.

She is also one of the "founding mothers" of our women's group Pilipina, was an important figure in the peace movement, and was our No. 1 nominee in the party-list group Abanse! Pinay, had not events intervened. But we let her go willingly, knowing how close to her heart the issue of sectoral representation in the formulation of the Social Reform Agenda (SRA) has been.

Ging was NGO representative in the Social Reform Council during the Ramos years, and played a key role in formulating the processes to ensure that the basic sectors were genuinely represented by legitimately elected representatives. When this process was subverted early in the Erap administration, it just about broke Ging's heart and convinced her that Erap's "pro-poor" stance was hollow and meaningless.

As lead convenor of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), Ging will not only oversee the formulation of a social reform agenda by people's sectoral representatives, she will also in effect coordinate government's poverty-alleviation program, the centerpiece program of the new administration as Macapagal has proclaimed time and again.

Fortuitous indeed is the naming of Dinky and Ging to head the Social Welfare Department and the NAPC, respectively. Both bodies are government's front-line agencies in dealing with the "poorest of the poor." The Social Welfare Department looks out for society's most vulnerable: children, survivors of sexual violence, the homeless and desperately poor, victims of natural calamities. "The DSWD steps in when all other agencies fail in their task," as one former Social Welfare Department head remarked. The NAPC, on the other hand, empowers the poor, giving them voice and decision-making powers to shape government's response to their issues.

I'm confident these women (who are only the first of other women appointees, I hope) will prove to be a blessing to government. A grateful people owes them praise for jumping into the fires of public service at such a difficult time.

Five questions on People Power 2

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

1. WHY was People Power 2 necessary?

Like all peace-loving peoples in the world, Filipinos did everything to make their legal institutions work. Because he had lost their trust, they first asked President Joseph Estrada to admit his failure and resign honorably to prevent further injury to the country. But he refused to answer the serious allegations against him, and vowed never to resign.

Our people then sought recourse in the only constitutional mechanism left to remove him—impeachment. But instead of allowing the process to bring out the whole truth so that the nation may determine the President's fitness to remain in office, Estrada's 11 political allies in the Senate used their numerical superiority to suppress the truth. The law is supposed to be an instrument of the truth. But the 11 senators used it to thwart the truth, leaving the people no choice but to directly manifest their will. People Power 2 was an expression of that will.

2. But Estrada was elected by more than 10 million Filipino voters. This is greater than the biggest crowd that gathered at the Edsa Shrine in the name of People Power. Is this democracy?

Apart from those at Edsa, People Power was everywhere in the public squares of the country. People also cheered from their homes and lined up the streets to support the marchers. The public airing of the trial galvanized a critical mass that exploded in outrage on the day the pro-Erap senators stopped the opening of the crucial second envelope. Not everyone could be at Edsa, but it would be wrong to think that those who would defend People Power with their lives number no more than the million who were there.

On the other hand, surveys show that as early as October 2000, only one-third of those who voted for Estrada as President in 1998 were inclined to choose him again in an election. Why? In less than two years, Estrada squandered all the goodwill that the people gave him. Instead of attending to the problems of the poor who formed the core of his political support, he used his time to enrich himself, his multiple families and his cronies. Confidence in his administration sank so low that no one cared to invest in our economy. The value of our peso plunged to historic lows and the stock market braced for a collapse. After overthrowing a criminal president, People Power willfully pulled back and placed the country on a constitutional track. That is democracy at work.

3. But isn't People Power just another name for middle-class power? Where are the poor in all this?

People Power is the power not so much of the middle class as of the informed and critical sectors of the nation, including the organized peasantry, labor and the urban poor. Most of all, however, it is the power of the young and the hopeful generation.

Because of gross disparities in wealth and power in our society, the vast majority of the poor have become passive spectators in our political life. Estrada and politicians like him prey upon their vulnerability—their economic insecurity, gullibility and blind adulation of celebrities—to capture political power. Nothing shows this more vividly than the composition and disposition of the measly pro-Erap crowd on Mendiola.

4. Does it help the cause of democracy to allow the military to intervene in a political exercise?

Democracy flourishes when the military remains a non-partisan institution, recognizes the supremacy of civilian authority, and does not seize power for itself. In People Power 2, the military followed the people's initiative, in accordance with their constitutional duty. Neither tanks nor troop movements, the emblems of military coups, were visible in People Power 2. The only time that uniformed military officials showed up at the Edsa Shrine, it was to announce that they were bowing to the people's will and withdrawing their support from Estrada. The new administration is a purely civilian constitutional structure, not a junta.

5. Where do we go from here?

The immediate goal of People Power 2 was not so much to install Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as President as to rid the country of a corrupt president who was destroying the nation. Whatever reservations some of its participants may have about the new President, People Power 2 recognizes the legitimacy of the Macapagal presidency. The long-term goal, however, is to reform the mechanisms of our public life so that our country may get out of the vicious cycle of poverty, corruption and patronage in which it is trapped, and ensure its survival and progress in the modern competitive world.

There are no democratic short cuts to this goal. In the 1970s, Marcos used authoritarian means to reform society, but the suspension of civil liberties only aggravated our problems. We must take the slower route of cleaning up the bureaucracy and electing better public officials, while enlarging the space for debate on the national agenda. Our nation's condition is critical, and we cannot afford to take an attitude of business-as-usual.

Poverty and inequality in our country are more explosive than ever. We cannot leave the solutions to government alone. All of us are called upon, as an act of citizenship, to practice an ethic of redistribution in our daily lives. Finally, the menace of corruption has so crept into every pore of our national life that it is foolish to think that all we need is a decent leader. Decent leaders come from decent constituencies. People Power 2 is a call to responsible citizenship; it is addressed not just to President Macapagal but to every Filipino.

* * *

My e-mail is: rdavid@pacific.net.ph

The law is what the SC says it is

OUTLOOK

Rigoberto Tiglao

ALL these debates about whether President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is a legitimate President or not are really useless. Former Sen. Jovito Salonga, still one of the country's best legal minds, put quite succinctly the reality of our legal structure when he was asked about the issue: "The law is what the Supreme Court says it is."

That may sound harsh, but it is the reality. We can debate endlessly the finer points of the Constitution or of a particular law. But these are all scraps of paper that don't talk for themselves. It is the courts which do the talking, and the last tribunal to say whether this or that is really the law of the land is the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court said we have a legitimate President when the court en banc affirmed on Jan. 20 that Macapagal was Estrada's successor, and Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. administered to her the oath of office.

The only way for the presidency of Macapagal to be declared illegal is for the Supreme Court to reverse its Jan. 20 action. Does anyone really believe the Supreme Court will do that?

It's one reason really why the Marcos regime lasted so long. He got the Supreme Court in 1972 to make a ruling that his declaration of martial law was based on a particular article in the Constitution. Many thought then, validly we would think, that the reason for that decision was that Marcos tightly controlled the Supreme Court justices. By 1986, Marcos wielded such immense powers that he was able to change the Constitution itself to legalize his dictatorship. That's the reason why the only way to overthrow him was through an extra-constitutional means, which was people power.

Still legal challenges to the legitimacy of Macapagal's presidency can be expected. It's the only remaining chip former President Estrada has for him to fend off the avalanche of criminal suits he'll be facing in the coming months.

* * *

If you haven't noticed, the international press hasn't been gushing over People Power 2 as it did over People Power 1. International Herald Tribune columnist Philip Bowring concluded his piece: "If strong institutions are the basis of good governance, it is hard to find much to cheer in the manner of Mr. Estrada's departure." The Los Angeles Times reduced the entire phenomenon into a "constitutional coup." The unkindest cut was made in Anthony Spaeth's essay in Time which concluded: "People Power has become an acceptable term for a troubling phenomenon: one that used to be known as mob rule."

It's not difficult to pick out the conceptual and even empirical errors in their arguments. For instance Spaeth fails to see that the country's people power phenomena—in 1986 and more so this year—were essentially a civil society revolt, not really a mass uprising. Yes, many of those who participated at Edsa were there on their own, and were expressing their outrage against Estrada. The first crowds at Edsa and along Katipunan Avenue on Jan. 18 were spontaneous. But from the start of the outrage against Estrada, there were civil society organizations—such as Kompil 2, even Copa, Bayan, formal institutions like the universities and professional associations—organizing and leading the revolt.

Having said that though, the sentiment behind these critical foreign press pieces is one we should take note of. The first people power was heroic, and it inspired democratic movements all over the world. However, it didn't change the nation really, so we needed another people power, another action to go around the Constitution. "Oops, we did it again," was the title of Spaeth's piece. We would have liked better had he written: "S—t, we had to do it again."

* * *

Has the Philippine Left finally evolved? Its behavior in the anti-Estrada movement seems to show that it has.

Instead of an insurrectionary party, it acted more as a "civil society" organization simply participating in the broad movement against Estrada. An armed Leninist organization would have undertaken urban guerrilla actions in order to provoke the "reactionary state" to retaliate, thereby revealing its "fascist essence" and further splitting the ruling class. The translation for that: chaos and violence in the streets to give space for a rural-based army to take over. The Communist Party didn't do that at all.

The evolution of the Left could be one of the best outcomes of People Power 2.

* * *

People Power 2 will be an immediate boon to at least two of the country's biggest conglomerates. Their cases illustrate why Estrada's fall could jump-start business.

First is Maynilad Water Services, controlled by the Lopez clan. According to its president, Rafael Alunan, the firm was set to default on its $400-million loans by the end of this month, and practically keel over if it didn't get the rate adjustment. Apparently, the entire Estrada administration was paralyzed in the past few months so that even its regulatory bodies couldn't act on the rate adjustment. Nobody doubts now that Maynilad Water Services will be getting its rate adjustment soon.

Second is the Ayala conglomerate. It had been working on its project to build a railway from the metropolis to the south, which would boost of course its property projects there and the area's overall development. The problem was, another real estate conglomerate close to the Estrada administration seemed to want the project for itself and managed one way or another to put up obstacles before the Ayala group could start it. With Estrada—and that firm out of the way—the Ayala group will most likely be going full-blast on its South Rail project.

* * *

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THEY SAID

Spontaneous reaction

"The treacherous act done by the 11 senator-judges in preventing the truth to come out was more than enough reason to elicit a spontaneous reaction from the public."

—Laguna Gov. Joey Lina on the ability to have one million anti-Erap marchers

Show of support

"If I were not there it would leave the impression that the House was not supporting the new President."

—House Speaker Arnulfo Fuentebella on his presence at Edsa where he was loudly booed

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IN DEPTH

LEAH P. MAKABENTA, Editor

WHITHER PEOPLE POWER?

The only way : the retribution imperative

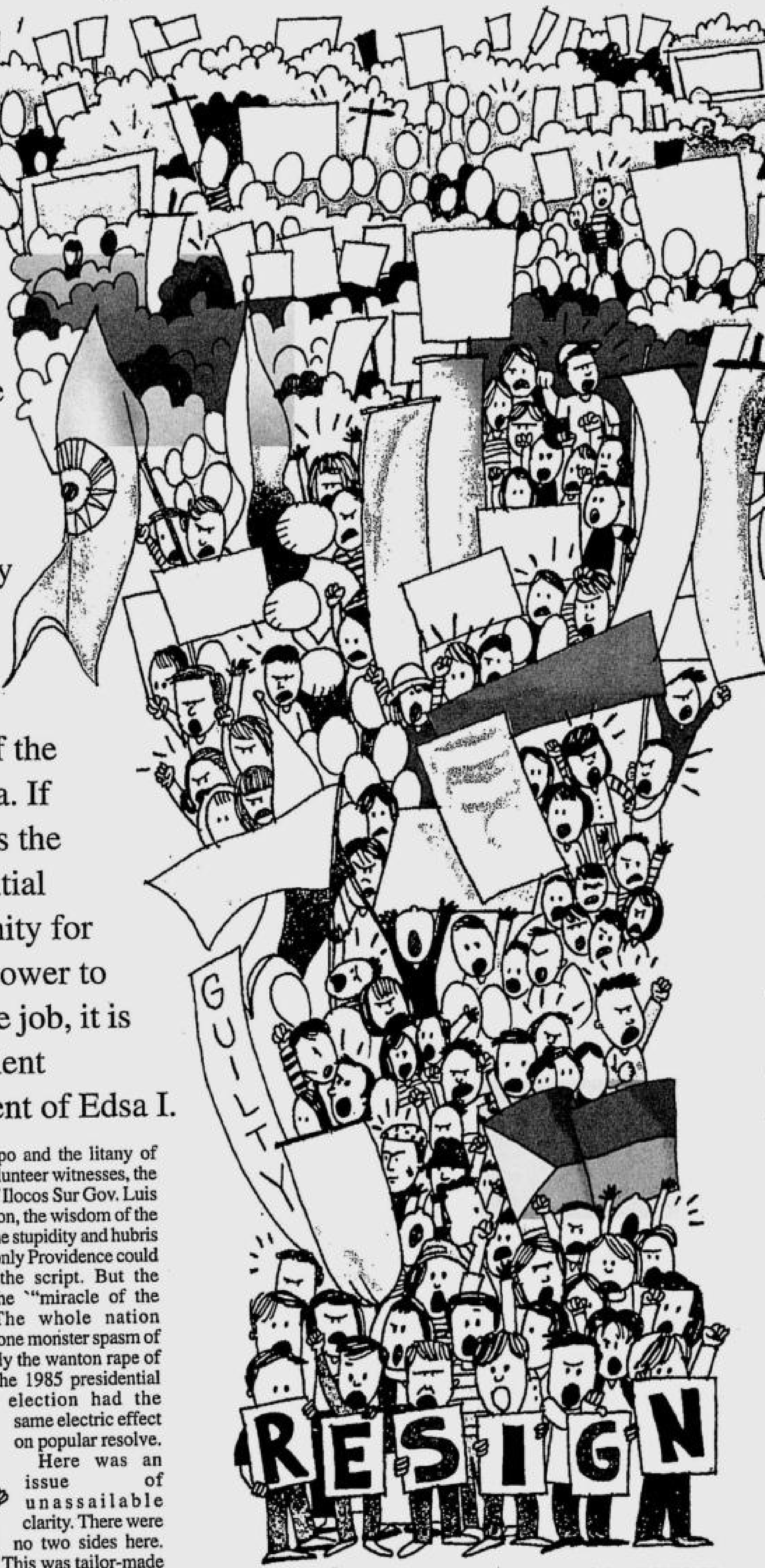
BY RAUL V. FABELLA

THE TIES that link Edsa II and Edsa I transcend people power and a statistically improbable string of miracles. Edsa I drove the dictator Ferdinand Marcos to exile in balmy Hawaii. It restored the bells and bangles of democracy. But it had one crippling failure: it failed to punish the perpetrators of the rape of the Philippine economy and Philippine institutions.

This failure was to continually haunt and hamstring the subsequent decade-and-a-half of the country's struggle to develop. This is the organic bond that ties Edsa II and Edsa I: the nightmare we knew as the Erap presidency was an offspring of that distant failure.

If Edsa II is the providential opportunity for people power to finish the job, it is also a silent indictment of Edsa I. Edsa II did not end on Saturday, Jan. 20. Edsa II only began there.

> The nightmare that we knew as the Erap presidency was an offspring of the failure of the first Edsa. If Edsa II is the providential opportunity for people power to finish the job, it is also a silent indictment of Edsa I.



ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPH BRAVO / ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Failure to punish

It is instructive to dwell on why Edsa I failed to punish. First and foremost, Edsa I was not a coalition of pro-democracy forces, it was an uneasy coalition of anti-Marcos forces, only some of whom were genuinely pro-democracy. And there lies a crucial difference. Many who made hay under the grace of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos but who eventually fell out of favor also rallied behind the banner of democracy.

Secondly, these same people who were adept at negotiating the complex legal labyrinth built by presidential decrees, promptly hijacked the fledgling post-Edsa government and effectively emasculated it. Juan Ponce Enrile, Ernesto Maceda, Francisco Tatad, Blas Ople and, later, Edgardo Angara deftly wormed themselves into the woodwork of the post-Edsa power edifice.

The latter was effectively rendered inutile for good but extremely handy for personal moneymaking. Thus, the enemy was never clearly identified so that people power had seemingly nowhere to train its guns after 1986. The hand of the enemy inside was reinforced by the enemy outside: coup plotters led by Gringo Honasan and the hardly touched financial muscle of the cronies guaranteed a gridlock. The inside-outside play left Cory Aquino's government gasping for breath. Thus, Edsa I never had the weapons to punish. It did not have a chance.

Marcos redux

The Estrada presidency was really Marcos greed redux without the decree-making powers and, fortunately for us, without the IQ to cover telltale tracks. The tribunate at the deathbed of the Estrada presidency reads like a Marcos dinner guest list: Maceda, Ronaldo Puno, Angara, Enrile, Honasan, Ople, Tatad, Estelito Mendoza, Ronaldo Zamora and Ramon Cardenas on the inside and, from some distance with cash on the ready, Lucio Tan and Eduardo Cojuangco. We ate our hearts out in 1986 and looked away hoping they had changed their stripes outside the shadow of Marcos. The impeachment trial demonstrated their true unchanging collective color.

Edsa II was providential in many ways as it provided the conditions that were conspicuously absent in Edsa 1. Edsa II finally revealed "the enemy within." They were all caught in one giant tangled web of intrigue, deception and cover-up, crafted to preserve the gravy train called the Estrada presidency.

The first set consists of those we may call (alluding to the fateful second envelope) the "envelopmental senators" who resealed themselves to be squarely against the truth by their vote on the second envelope. Eager beavers for Mammon, they failed to see what every housemaid and jeepney driver in the land could not miss: *Evidentiae suppressae testimonium irrefutabile* (The witness of suppressed evidence is irrebuttable). There were so many "*hulog ng langit*" (providential occurrences) in this whole episode—Clarissa Ocampo and the litany of courageous, volunteer witnesses, the failed rubout of Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, the wisdom of the Davide court, the stupidity and hubris of Erap, etc.—only Providence could have penned the script. But the biggest was the "miracle of the envelope." The whole nation slumped in one monster spasm of disgust. Only the wanton rape of the 1985 presidential election had the same electric effect on popular resolve. Here was an issue of unassailable clarity. There were no two sides here. This was tailor-made for people power. The enemy had poker faces, appalling accents, and even dancing steps. The uncontrollable collective cathexis had to find expression. It did at Edsa.

Guardian of guardians

The second set of enemies are the spear carriers of the Estrada crisis team: Maceda, Puno, Mendoza, Zamora, Cardenas, Angara and Panfilo Lacson. And the third set consists of the Estrada/Marcos cronies: Lucio Tan, Danding Cojuangco, Mark Jimenez, Dante Tan, Atong Ang, Lucio Co, Jaime Dichaves and George Go.

The enemies of the Filipino people are, once and for all, clearly delineated. There are many others but this fraternity takes the cake. "Whereas before I was blind, now I see" is the Gospel line that applies. And the sight inspires horror.

Even before the triumvirate of public conscience (Jaime Cardinal Sin, Cory Aquino and Fidel Ramos) made the fateful call, this amorphously dispersed fury became a self-organizing living system. People converged at the Edsa Shrine, as if driven there by an Invisible Hand, ready to pay the price for their conviction. Never had mobile telephones been deployed for so noble a cause and to what effect.

Edsa II has now confirmed that the Philippine polity has discovered a partial answer to the eternal conundrum: "Who guards the guardians of the law?" It is people power. Unlike the instruments of government, this "virtual" organization cannot be bought. But by its very nature, people power cannot be used willy-nilly.

Several necessary ingredients are required for success: 1) the "enemy" must be unassailably clear to all and sundry; 2) it must be triggered by a public rape of something on which Filipinos had invested their hopes and self-respect; 3) it must be led by people of proven probity and above suspicion; and 4) these persons must come from the three estates: the Church (Sin), civil society and academe (Cory) and the military (Ramos).

Edsa II, however, will in time be judged a monumental failure if it fails to outdo Edsa I.

The conditions for success, which were not there in 1986, have now been provided by the impeachment trial:

- The enemy has been clearly identified—the 11 senators; the Estrada's survival over-their-dead-bodies team of Puno, Maceda, Zamora, Angara and Lacson; and the financial muscle of cronies Lucio Tan, Danding Cojuangco, Jaime Dichavez, Dante Tan, Mark Jimenez, Lucio Co, George Go, Atong Ang, etc.

This sinister brotherhood must be politically neutralized and booted out in the May 2001 and in the 2004 elections. Or they will be back with a vengeance.

- The rape of the impeachment process will still be very fresh in the minds of minds of the people. The footages of Maceda, Enrile and Oreta will do the trick every time.
- Cory, Sin and Ramos will still be there to lead the way; and
- The three estates will still be represented in the triumvirate.

Taunting hyenas

One can almost hear the characteristic taunt: "*Tingnan natin sa darating na eleksyon. Kung hindi mapawalang saysay ang* people power *na iyan.*" (Let's see what happens in the coming elections. Let's see how strong this people power will be.) Beware the cornered hyenas of the soft state. They know the soft underbelly of Philippine democracy.

The biggest obstacle in the path of Edsa II is the financial clout of the cronies and Estrada's own ill-gotten billions, which will surely be used to bankroll a comeback in the coming elections, if not in direct destabilization efforts. *Dagdag-bawas* (vote-padding and shaving) was used to deadly effect in the last senatorial elections and will almost surely be used again. If Estrada and his cronies and their ill-gotten assets are not soon parted, they will bankroll a comeback and sow endless grief. Crony assets must be neutralized.

Edsa II cannot stop at driving misfits out of Malacañang to an extended vacation with a *pabaon* (pin money) of billions of pesos. Edsa I did as much. Why, that is not such a bad reward for ruining the economy.

Prosecute, convict

To push forward, Edsa II must prosecute. It must convict. It must bring Estrada and his cronies to the bar of justice using the evidence gathered in the trial. Nothing less will re-empower Philippine institutions. Either that or we will have another ruinous president sooner than we expect. The suspected assets of the cronies must be tied down, frozen and contested in courts for possible confiscation. Once recovered, these assets must be earmarked to finance central infrastructure projects which will be appropriately named—e.g. *Katas ng Nakaw* Bridge (Fruits of Plunder) to memorialize the grand theft and serve as a warning for the future.

> To push forward, Edsa II must prosecute. It must convict. It must bring Estrada and his cronies to the bar of justice using the evidence gathered in the trial. Nothing less will re-empower Philippine institutions. Either that, or we will have another ruinous President sooner than we expect.

To this end, we need a venue to continue the prosecution of the ill-gotten wealth and suspected bank accounts. The revival of the Pimentel-led Senate blue ribbon committee investigation is proper where the proceedings must be public and covered by television.

Other kindred initiatives could include:

- reopening the tax fraud case against Fortune Tobacco;
- opening lawsuits to private bounty hunters and lawyers' groups with a clear sharing agreement over recovered assets (e.g. 90-10);
- for the Senate inquiry to look into possible behest loans under Estrada—the PNB loan to Dichaves, the Land Bank loan to Jaworski, the GSIS loans and the involvement of Equitable-PCIBank in Estrada's secret accounts;
- the economic boycott of crony-associated companies and banks, such as United Coconut Planters Bank and Security Bank, should press on but only after solid investigation into their ownership by a private group, like the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism. Rumors can be floated by just about anyone and hurt the innocent.

Edsa II is one providential gift of an opportunity to finish the job started at Edsa 1. We cannot let it go begging. Another failure will prove the lie that we are a people without backbone. A democracy that has lost the will to punish has lost the strength to survive. There may not be a next time.

The author is dean of the University of the Philippines School of Economics.

NBI to probe Northern Luzon cops on Bubby Dacer abduction

BY MICHAEL UBAC

DIRECTOR Reynaldo Wycoco of the National Bureau of Investigation esterday admitted that the agency was now going after policemen "from Northern Luzon" who were believed to have orchestrated the abduction of public relations practitioner Salvador "Bubby" Dacer.

Wycoco said in an interview that NBI agents already have sketchy information on the identities of these policemen who either have knowledge of the abduction or who themselves carried out the abduction of Dacer and his driver, Manuel Corbito, on Nov. 24.

"I believe that these policemen in Northern Luzon can shed light on the abduction," he said. "But the NBI is in close coordination with the PNP, particularly PNP Chief Leandro Men-doza. He knows about this and we have already coordinated with him," he said.

Wycoco, however, refused to divulge the exact province or town where these policemen are assigned.

"We want to present (to the public) a very credible piece of investigation. That's why we don't want to speculate and release unconfirmed reports right now," said Wycoco.

He said the main thrust of the investigation was to first establish the identities of these policemen. "Only after we knew their identities can we establish their linkages," said Wycoco, referring to top officials in the previous administration who might be behind the mysterious disappearance of Dacer.

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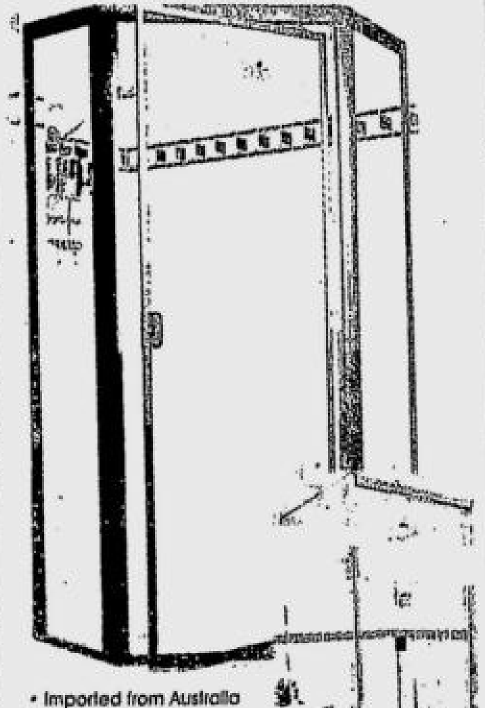
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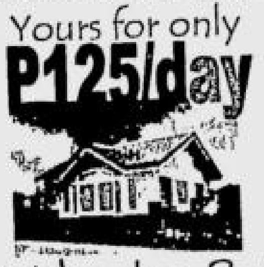
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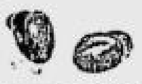
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The WORLD

MARGOT J. BATERINA, Editor

India quake deaths rise to 7,500

GANHINAGAR, India—The death toll from the powerful earthquake that rocked India is believed to be almost 7,500, although the bodies have not yet been pulled from debris, said a high-ranking official of Gujarat state, which was hardest hit by the 7.9 magnitude temblor.

A high-ranking official at the state's emergency control room said 2,403 bodies have been recovered. Most of them—1,450—have been found in Bhuj, the town nearest the epicenter.

There are 10,000 people still missing in the rubble of the two of 150,000 people, and at least half of them are dead, said the official, who asked not to be identified by name.

Indian communities around the world waited anxiously Friday for news of friends and relatives as emergency workers scrambled to clear the rubble and count the dead in the wake of the worst earthquake to hit India in more than 50 years.

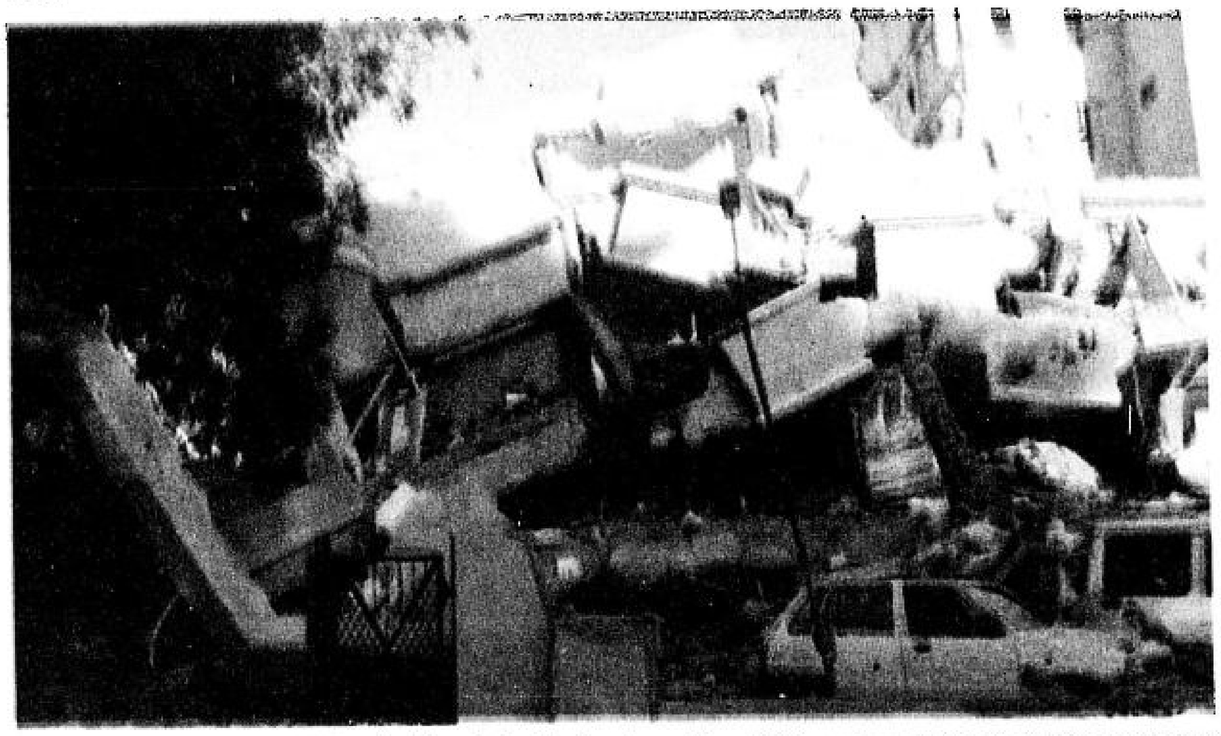
Governments and aid agencies offered help and sympathy as the death toll from the 7.9 magnitude quake in Gujarat state near the Pakistani border continued to rise.

"I am very much concerned," said Jayana Shah, 37, who moved to Leicester, England, from Gujarat six months ago, and spent much of Friday trying to reach relatives in Ahmedabad, the state's commercial capital.

"I have everybody except my husband and two children there," she said. "I think there is a problem with the phone lines which means we cannot get through, but it sets your mind racing. My brother and my husband's brother live in tall buildings and we know many of those have collapsed."

Jignesh Valand, 27, was able to reach his wife's relatives in Ahmedabad.

"They are OK, but they said it had got bad," he said. "There are many buildings broken and they are still in shock."



COLLAPSED apartment buildings in Ahmedabad, India, where at least 860 people were reportedly killed as the 7.9 magnitude earthquake rocked western India, July 26. AP

Britain's Department for International Development said it was giving $4.5 million in assistance.

In Washington, President George W. Bush extended condolences to victims on both sides of the Indian-Pakistani border.

"Earthquakes know no political boundaries," he said. "I send my condolences and those of the American people to the families of the many victims in the cities and villages of Gujarat and elsewhere."

Bush said the United States was willing to provide assistance "as needed and desired" by India and Pakistan.

German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer sent a telegram to his Indian counterpart to offer German assistance, and German President Johannes Rau wrote to the Indian president with condolences.

The charity wing of Germany's Lutheran Church offered $47,000 in help and called for further donations, while the German aid agency Caritas International offered $95,000 and said it would send an aid team to Gujarat. In Italy, Caritas launched a $1-million appeal to assist its India branch.

Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien extended his sympathy and said Canada's government was considering how best to help.

A Russian Il-76 transport plane was tasked to carry to India 65 rescue workers, sniffer dogs and equipment to search for people in rubble, according to the Interfax news agency.

In Switzerland, a five-member emergency team from the Swiss Disaster Relief Corps headed to India, and the government said a bigger rescue team was ready to go as soon as it received a request from the Indian government.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies launched an appeal for $1.25 million, and said much of that would go directly to the Indian Red Cross to buy emergency supplies locally. Red Cross officials were also headed to the disaster zone to assess needs.

Norway's foreign ministry announced up to $1.3 million in emergency aid, and said $285,000 were being immediately given to the Norwegian Church Aid group to help especially vulnerable groups in Gujarat.

The Danish Red Cross pledged $25,000 to India for food, housing, clothes and clean water. *AP*

Heavy snow stalls air, land travel in Japan

TOKYO—Traffic was snarled, flights canceled and pedestrians were slipping and sliding across icy walkways as snow blanketed wide swathes of Japan on Saturday.

In Tokyo, where heavy snowfall is uncommon, shopkeepers in the posh Ginza entertainment district shoveled slush away from store entrances and cars clattered through the city with road-gripping chains.

Authorities in the capital said at least 20 residents suffered snow-related injuries—mostly after falling on ice. One 66-year-old woman who stumbled and hit her head was in critical condition, said Tokyo Fire Department official Shuichi Oba.

At downtown Haneda Airport, 192 domestic flights were canceled Saturday as snow piled up on runways, said airport official Kumiko Kobayashi. It was not immediately clear how many passengers were affected or when regular service would resume, she said.

There were, however, no delays reported at Tokyo's main international airport, 33 km east of the city, where cold rain fell Saturday, said airport spokesperson Minoru Abe.

In northern Japan, at least three people were injured in traffic accidents and some high-speed trains were running late, public broadcaster NHK said.

The Meteorological Agency predicted continued heavy snowfall of up to 70 centimeters later Saturday in mountainous parts of Yamanashi and Kanagawa prefectures (states), just west and south of Tokyo. *AP*

UN says Jakarta improving security in W. Timor's squalid refugee camps

UNITED NATIONS—Indonesia has finally started taking measures to improve security in West Timor's squalid refugee camps and appears willing to discuss ways to clear them out entirely, senior UN and East Timorese officials say.

Nobel laureate Jose Ramos-Horta, who has bitterly criticized Indonesia's response to the refugee situation in the past, said his recent visit to Indonesia convinced him that government authorities now realized it was in their interest to resolve the crisis.

"It's a financial burden to them and also politically destabilizing for their own situation particularly in West Timor," Ramos-Horta told reporters Friday after he briefed the Security Council on the situation in East and West Timor.

More than 100,000 East Timorese fled across the border in 1999 after pro-Indonesian militias went on a looting and killing rampage to protest the results of a UN-organized referendum that overwhelmingly backed independence from Indonesia.

While thousands of East Timorese have returned home, tens of thousands more remain in the refugee camps, held against their will by anti-independence militia who warn them they would be better off in Indonesia, UN officials say.

The refugees have been without UN aid since the United Nations pulled out following the slaying of three aid workers in September.

Sergio Vieira de Mello, the UN administrator running East Timor while it prepares for independence, welcomed the arrest of six suspects in the slayings as a signal of Indonesia's "genuine efforts" to improve the security situation in West Timor. He also cited the trial of a notorious militia leader and recent efforts by the regional commander in West Timor to disarm militias as "positive" steps forward.

"We hope that these policies will be implemented in a systematic manner," Vieira de Mello said. "We will be able to judge in a few weeks from now whether they have given the desired results."

The United Nations, meanwhile, was in discussion with Jakarta authorities about ways to clear the camps out once and for all—allowing those who wish to remain in Indonesia to stay and those who want to return to East Timor to do so in safety, he said.

He cited a UN operation to escort Cambodian refugees held in Khmer Rouge camps as a possible model. *AP*

NEW YEAR THANKSGIVING REUTERS

A worshipper stands under a huge lantern as he prays at the Longshan Temple in Taipei, Jan. 26. During the Chinese New Year holidays, may people head to temples to give thanks for the new year and pray for 12 months of good fortune.

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Annan, Sihanouk urged to check draft law for trial of Khmer Rouge

PHNOM PENH—Cambodian intellectuals have urged UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and Cambodian King Norodom Sihanouk to closely scrutinize the recently crafted draft law to try Khmer Rouge leaders, according to documents seen Saturday.

Letters dated Friday emphasized the need to clarify important elements in the law as the process for trying the surviving deputies of deceased Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot is formulated.

The intellectuals expressed concern that the law was too vague on the powers of the court, the process of selecting Cambodian judges and the role of foreign lawyers.

Local and international human rights groups say Cambodia's bribery-ridden and underdeveloped judiciary will have to be closely monitored if and when Khmer Rouge leaders accused of atrocities go before a tribunal.

Cambodia's Parliament has passed a draft law establishing the framework for the UN-assisted tribunal, but it must still be approved by the Constitutional Council and Sihanouk before it takes affect.

The world body and the Phnom Penh government also must negotiate a treaty before the unique mixed court can be convened.

The government two weeks ago ignored written United Nations concerns about the draft law, and future talks between the two sides are expected to be heated, according to those close to the process.

The United Nations asked in a Jan. 9 letter for clarifications or changes to 17 of the law's 48 articles. *AP*

Sokor stude among 3 dead in train mishap

TOKYO—A South Korean student who tried to save a drunken Japanese man who fell in front of a train at a busy commuter station in Tokyo was killed in an accident that claimed three lives, police said Saturday.

The student, 26-year-old Lee Su-hyon, and a Japanese man jumped on the tracks at Shin-Okubo station Friday night in an attempt to rescue a 37-year-old plasterer who stumbled off the platform in a drunken stupor, said a spokesperson for the Tokyo Metropolitan Police, who declined to be named. All three were hit and killed by a rush-hour train.

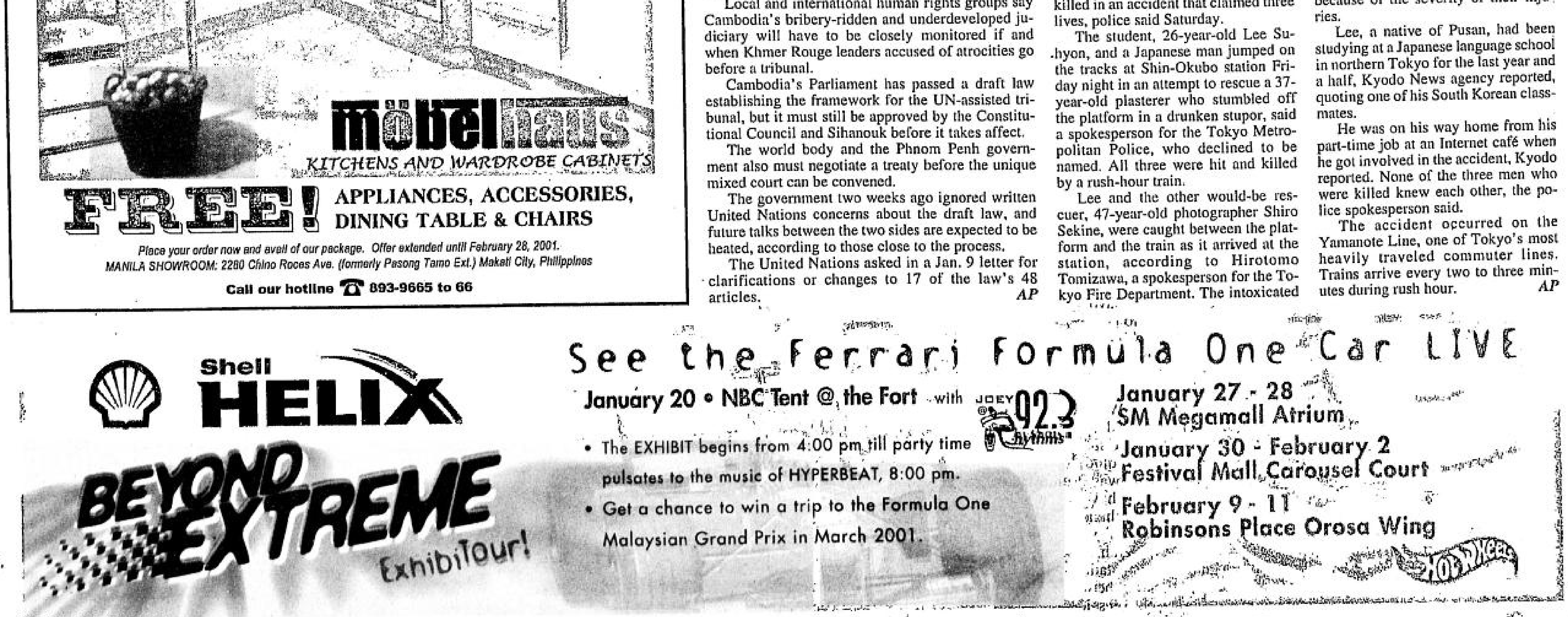
Lee and the other would-be rescuer, 47-year-old photographer Shiro Sekine, were caught between the platform and the train as it arrived at the station, according to Hirotomo Tomizawa, a spokesperson for the Tokyo Fire Department. The intoxicated man, Seiko Sakamoto, died when the train rolled over him.

The fire department was unable to identify Lee or Sekine on Friday night because of the severity of their injuries.

Lee, a native of Pusan, had been studying at a Japanese language school in northern Tokyo for the last year and a half, Kyodo News agency reported, quoting one of his South Korean classmates.

He was on his way home from his part-time job at an Internet café when he got involved in the accident, Kyodo reported. None of the three men who were killed knew each other, the police spokesperson said.

The accident occurred on the Yamanote Line, one of Tokyo's most heavily traveled commuter lines. Trains arrive every two to three minutes during rush hour. *AP*



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WARNING FROM FARMERS

French trade unionist Jose Bove uproots a soybean plant at the Monsanto experimental farm near the town of Nao Me Toque, southern Brazil, during a protest against genetically modified crops. Bove is in Brazil to participate in the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre.

Pinochet suffers stroke; confined

SANTIAGO—As complaints against him rose to 214 Friday, former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet was in hospital after suffering a slight stroke days after being questioned for the first time on alleged human rights abuses.

Doctors at Santiago's Military Hospital said the ailing 85-year-old general had suffered a "transient ischemic attack"—hardening of the arteries to the brain that commonly precedes a stroke—adding he would likely be in the hospital's intensive care unit at least through Saturday afternoon.

Pinochet was whisked by limousine to the hospital midday on Friday, after having been transferred by military helicopter from his holiday residence, Los Boldos, on the Pacific coast in southwestern Chile.

His spokesperson Luis Cortes Villa said the decision to admit the 85-year-old retired general to hospital was taken after a medical examination early Friday.

"Through the whole of the day (Thursday), he felt tired, with a permanent very strong headache and swollen legs, which made him take to his bed at six in the evening," Cortes said.

Doctors confirmed Pinochet's raging headaches and added he had suffered a slight decrease in energy in his left side, according to a hospital statement.

Pinochet suffers from heart problems, diabetes and a number of other serious health conditions, including, according to doctors who examined him earlier this month, "light to moderate dementia."

On Tuesday, the former head of state was interrogated, for the first time, by Judge Juan Guzman, who is investigating whether he was responsible for more than 3,000 killings and disappearances, which took place during his iron-fisted regime.

According to a transcript of the interrogation released Thursday, Pinochet denied he ordered the 1973 "Caravan of Death" squad's summary executions of some 75 political prisoners, some of whom he described as "terrorists."

At one point during the interrogation, Guzman showed Pinochet a four-page report on the killings dated Oct. 31, 1973, which appeared to have been initialed by him.

Pinochet said the document was "absolutely false."

"I am not a criminal. As for the rest, those responsible for the procedures against detainees were the commanders of the respective garrisons," he said. *AFP*

Bush reaffirms plans to cut nuke arsenals

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush reaffirmed Friday his intention to deploy a national missile defense shield and cut US nuclear arsenals as his defense secretary made clear that the 1972 ABM treaty would not stand in the president's way.

The US leader restated his key election campaign promises just hours after his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin warned that deployment of the anti-missile shield would do "irreparable damage" to international security.

Bush reminded reporters that he had pledged to deploy missile defenses and to reduce US nuclear arsenals and said: "I'm going to fulfill that campaign promise."

"My point is that I want America to lead the world toward a more safe world when it comes to nuclear weaponry. On the offensive side, we can do so, and we can do so on the defensive side as well," he said.

Russia vehemently opposes NMD and so far has refused any changes to the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty, which would bar deployment of even the limited anti-missile shield being developed by the United States. Many US allies also are worried that fielding the system could ignite a new arms race.

However, Bush's overture on nuclear arms reductions may appeal to Moscow, which has proposed that the United States and Russia cut their arsenals to 1,500 strategic nuclear warheads each, below the levels previously proposed for a START III agreement.

US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said a nuclear exchange with Moscow no longer was the main threat faced by the United States and that circumstances had changed since the ABM treaty was signed with the former Soviet Union.

The ABM treaty "ought not to inhibit a country, a president, an administration, a nation, from fashioning offensive and defensive capabilities that will provide for our security in a notably different national security environment," he told a news conference.

"The president has not been ambiguous about this. He says he intends to deploy a missile defense capability for the country. He has concluded that it is not in our country's interests to perpetuate vulnerability," he said.

Speaking at his first news conference since being sworn in to a second term as defense secretary, Rumsfeld would not say whether Washington was prepared to withdraw from the treaty.

"I think it's something that's manageable," he said. "I don't know quite how it will be managed."

Rumsfeld will make his first overseas trip as defense secretary to Munich next week to attend an annual security conference. *AFP*

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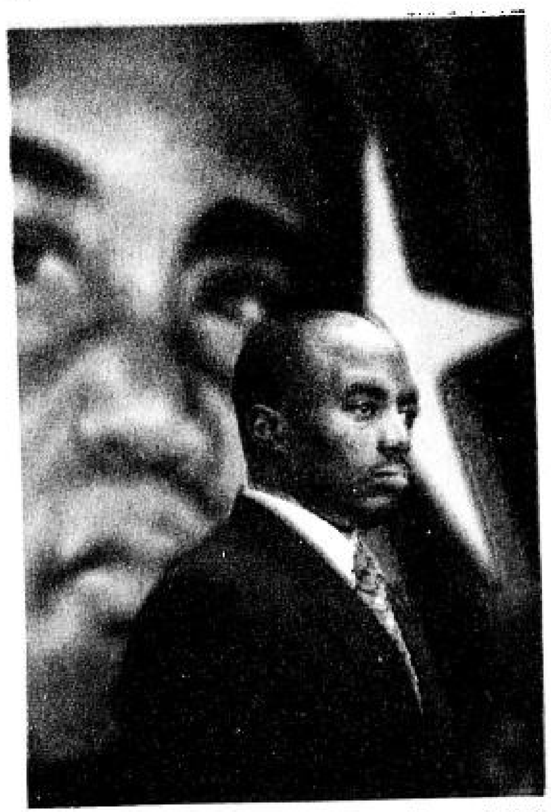
Young Kabila vows new peace efforts, elections



JOSEPH Kabila, 29, stands in front of a portrait of his father Laurent during swearing-in ceremonies as president of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Jan. 26. REUTERS

KINSHASA—Twenty-nine-year-old Gen. Joseph Kabila took the oath of office to succeed his assassinated father as president of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Friday, pledging fresh efforts to bring peace to his war-torn country and then hold elections.

His swearing-in by the Supreme Court at Kinshasa's historic Palace of the Nation came two days after the provisional parliament proclaimed him president.

His father, Laurent Kabila, who overthrew longtime dictator Mobutu Sese Seko in May 1997, died on Jan. 18 two days after being shot by a bodyguard, the government said.

The new president, in an address to the nation broadcast on radio and television late Friday, also pledged to heal rifts with foreign countries and said the DRC would be more active in international diplomacy.

Troops from Angola, Namibia and Zimbabwe are supporting his Army in a war against rebels backed by Rwanda and Uganda which has split this huge central African country in half, with fighting continuing despite a peace agreement signed in Lusaka in mid-1999.

"We shall, in agreement and in concert with the allied countries supporting us against aggression, examine the ways and means to relaunch the Lusaka agreement so that it can lead not only to an effective ceasefire, but also to re-establishing peace in the Great Lakes region," he said in his half-hour address, peppered with respectful references to his father.

Once peace had returned, he said, he would organize "free and transparent elections to allow the people themselves to choose a leader to guide the destiny of this country." *AFP*

Demonstrators defend right to protest vs Swiss summit

DAVOS, Switzerland—Opponents of a top-flight global summit here defended Friday their right to hold a demonstration this weekend despite an official ban on protests and a virtual block on access to Davos.

Protesters have vowed to take to the streets of this posh Swiss ski resort Saturday afternoon to demonstrate against what they dub an "undemocratic and elitist private circle."

The annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) opened here Thursday, and some 30 heads of state and government, dozens of ministers, social and business leaders are here until Tuesday.

They are taking part in more than 300 brainstorming sessions on global woes and how to solve them.

"We can't let ourselves be intimidated. We have the right to demonstrate," Peter Streckeisen, a member of the Swiss-branch of Attac, a group advocating the taxation of trans-border financial transactions, said in Zurich.

The Swiss-based Anti-WTO Coordination, one of the groups organizing the protest Saturday, had a similar message.

"We have the right to protest, they can't deny us our rights," a representative said.

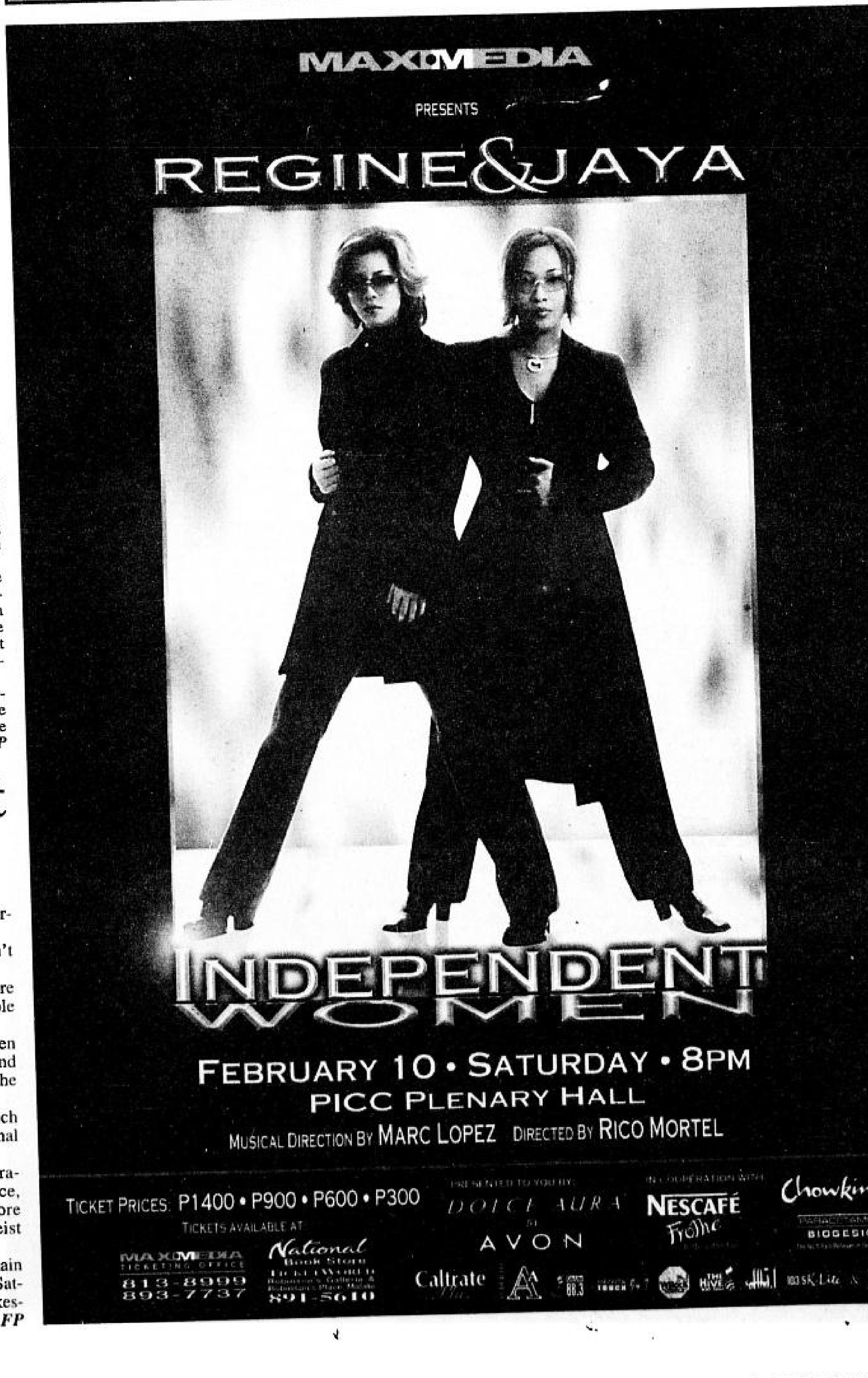
"We are against the politics fabricated there (in Davos) which throw more and more people into poverty," the representative added.

Unprecedented security measures have been put in place; barbed wire, steel barriers and police patrols greet participants arriving at the forum site.

"We have taken quite strong measures which should be sufficiently dissuasive," a cantonal police spokesperson, Daniel Reist said.

Liquid manure for throwing at demonstrators was even under consideration by police, who have since given up on the idea "more for ethical reasons than practical ones," Reist said.

Train service to Davos from the nearest main train station, in Landquart, will be stopped Saturday between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., a police spokesperson said. *AFP*



De Venecia plots return as Speaker

BY YOLANDA FUERTES
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

DAGUPAN CITY—Wanting to regain the leadership of the House of Representatives, former Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. appealed to Pangasinan Rep. Benjamin Lim (fourth district, Lakas) to give way to his candidacy and run instead as Dagupan mayor in the May 14 elections.

De Venecia, who lost to ousted President Joseph Estrada during the 1998 presidential election by a wide margin, told the INQUIRER Friday that he would make a bid for the speakership should he win the congressional race in Pangasinan's fourth district.

De Venecia, who has dismissed accusations that he is a trapo (traditional politician), said Lim, a businessman and former general manager of the Duty Free Philippines, would make a better mayor than a legislator because of his administrative skills.

When told about reports that Lim would only withdraw his candidacy if President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo would personally ask him to do so, De Venecia said he was willing to accompany Lim to Ms Macapagal.

"(Lim) is like a brother to me and I will look after him. Besides, I am humble enough to ask him to run for mayor instead," he said.

The former Speaker also asked Dagupan Mayor Alipio Fernandez Jr., who is bent on joining the fourth district congressional race, to run as a party list representative instead.

Fernandez, League of Cities of the Philippines president and a last-term mayor, said the Macapagal administration has offered him an undersecretary position in the Department of Interior and Local Government but he said he is "not inclined" to accept it.

De Venecia, Lim and Fernandez are all members of the Lakas-NUCD.

In an earlier press statement, Lim said he would run for reelection, citing the rule of the equity of the incumbent.

Reports said Lim would bolt Lakas and join another party should De Venecia be chosen as the official Lakas candidate for congressman in Pangasinan's fourth district.

But De Venecia said the equity of the incumbent rule is "a good rule but there could be exemptions to the rule."

De Venecia, Lim and Fernandez have been regularly meeting to iron out the problems that could create division within the Lakas party, reports here said.

In Bulacan, members of the newly formed Bulacan United Opposition have endorsed the candidacy of civic leader and philanthropist Luz Parungao-Viado against reelectionist Gov. Josefina de la Cruz.

The new opposition group was created last Thursday and is composed of members of the Nationalist People's Coalition, Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, Liberal Party and the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan. Viado belongs to a political party called Isang Bansa Isang Diwa Party.

Last year, De la Cruz's party, Lakas-NUCD, entered into a coalition with the erstwhile administration party Lapian ng Masang Pilipino in Bulacan.

Reports said the alliance, forged by Senate President Pro-Tempore Blas Ople and former Transportation and Communications Secretary Vicente Rivera Jr., would ensure that De la Cruz would run unopposed in May.

Joey Munsayac, chair of the Bayan Muna Party in Bulacan and a member of the Bulacan opposition, said they had invited former Board Member Raul Ople, son of Senator Ople, to withdraw from the coalition and instead join the Bulacan United Opposition. But Munsayac said the young Ople refused to break his alliance with the governor.

Munsayac said it was Senator Ople and Rivera who initiated the coalition to push the candidacies of their children in various posts in Bulacan. In return, he said the local LAMP would not field a gubernatorial candidate against De la Cruz.

Raul Ople is the Lakas-LAMP coalition's candidate for the first congressional district seat while Jeffrey Rivera, former Secretary Rivera's son, would be the candidate for provincial board member in the province's second district.

Munsayac said they fielded Viado to give Bulacan voters a choice and to ensure that democracy would work in the province.

De la Cruz welcomed the entry of Viado in the gubernatorial race.

"Democracy works in this province and anybody is welcome to run for public office. I am not preventing anyone from running against me," she said.

In Pampanga, the opposition Nationalist People's Coalition has chosen Bacolor Mayor Ananias Canlas Jr. and action star Roi Vinzons as its candidates for governor and vice governor, respectively, during a party caucus on Thursday.

Canlas would run against reelectionist Gov. Manuel Lapid of Lakas-NUCD. Lakas has yet to officially name its candidate for vice governor against Vinzons, a native of Mexico town.

Earlier, President Macapagal's son Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo has announced that he would run as vice governor under Lakas.

Pampanga Rep. Zenaida Ducut, NPC provincial chair, said the NPC, an ally of LAMP, is "very much intact" in Pampanga despite the ouster of former President Joseph Estrada.

Vinzons, who said he is a friend Lapid's, told the INQUIRER that he opted to join the NPC because its officials approached him first.

He said Lapid had informed him late last year that he would be tapped as one of Lakas' candidates for board members.

"But he did not call me again. I tried to call him repeatedly, maybe 10 times or more, and I even left messages for him to call me back but he never did. So I thought that maybe he no longer needed me," Vinzons said. *With reports from Carmela Reyes and Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

₱23M allotted for ravaged Batangas City diversion road

CALAPAN CITY—The Philippine Ports Authority has set aside about P23 million for the concreting of a controversial 1.7-km diversion road leading to and from the International Port in Batangas City and which commuters have dubbed "abortion road."

Commuters and truckers from Mindoro and Romblon provinces have been getting impatient over the failure of the PPA and the Department of Public Works and Highways to fix the crater-laden and almost impassable road that causes "big losses, inconvenience and discomfort" to commuters.

Gov. Rodolfo G. Valencia, however, said the PPA and the DPWH are set to start the construction of the road as soon as the contract is awarded.

He said commuters from Romblon and Mindoro were anxious to have the road concreted.

The road connects Batangas Port to Barangay Bolbok, also in Batangas City.

In a press briefing, Valencia explained that because of the "serious road condition," many buses from Metro Manila refuse to ferry their Mindoro and Romblon-bound passengers to Batangas Port.

"Passengers are forced to hire tricycles in Barangay Bolbok to get to the pier," Valencia added. This costs them about P20 to P40, a considerable amount for Mindoro and Romblon passengers, Valencia added.

For the few buses that dare to cross the road, traffic jams are a common occurrence since vehicles are usually stalled due to deep holes and mud.

More than the plight of about 10,000 daily commuters passing through the road, Valencia said he was equally concerned with the plight of truckers, some of whom, he said, had been thinking of staging a protest action to force the PPA and the DPWH to make the road passable.

*"Heavy transport trucks and jeeps carrying agricultural products are no longer allowed to pass through Batangas City proper during rush hours. These vehicles need to reach the market in the shortest possible time. Otherwise their products will be wasted," he lamented. **Joel Jabal, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

FROILAN GALLARDO

THE ART OF PROTEST
The streets of Cagayan de Oro City was recently transformed into an art gallery of sorts as artists contribute their talents to spicing up protests against the 11 senators who voted against admitting a set of controversial bank documents in the impeachment trial of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Tañada says GMA to recognize coco levy as public fund

LUCENA CITY—Quezon Rep. Wigberto Tañada disclosed that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo would acknowledge the coconut levy as a public fund.

"If my information is correct, President Macapagal-Arroyo's position regarding the coconut levy fund is that it is a public fund," Tañada told the INQUIRER in a phone interview on Monday.

He declined to identify the source of his information.

"In our conversation, the informant revealed that GMA considers the coco levy money as public fund," the Quezon lawmaker said.

Based on the information, Tañada expressed belief that "the coconut industry and the coconut farmers will get fairer and better treatment from President Macapagal-Arroyo regarding this coconut levy issue."

Resolution

Quezon board member Claro Talaga moved for the passing of a council resolution urging Ms Macapagal to make a "decisive political decision" in the best interest of the millions of coconut farmers across the land.

"President Macapagal should recognize that this multibillion-peso coconut levy fund belongs to the coconut farmers and therefore, must be returned to them to unchain the coconut farmers from years of deprivation and injustice," Talaga said.

He described the Estrada administration as "cruel" to the coconut farmers.

"We now beg the present President not to forsake us this time in the name of another Danding Cojuangco and his clique," Talaga appealed.

The resolution has been unanimously adopted by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, describing it as urgent since the prices of coconut products are at their lowest in 15 years.

In a statement, the peasant coalition in the province urged the President to repeal Executive Orders 313 and 312 issued by the deposed president, saying these were a sell-out of the farmers' interest to the vested interest of the "coconut Mafia" in the past administration.

"President Macapagal-Arroyo should immediately repeal EO 312 and 313 as (a) concrete manifestation of her sincere desire to heal the wounds that have divided the nation for so long," said Rene Cerilla, president of the Ugnayan ng mga Magsasaka sa Quezon.

Task force

Estrada signed the executive orders creating the levy trust fund last year over the objection of the Multisectoral Task Force on the Coco Levy, which opposed the President's decision to repeal EO 481 and 277.

The two executive orders, issued by former President Fidel Ramos, declared that the coco levy fund should be treated as public fund while the courts were deciding the cases involving the disputed fund.

Cerilla said what could have been the farmers' salvation from poverty as promised by Estrada turned out "to be a period of more lies and insults heaped upon them by the oppressive regime of Estrada."

"This is one opportunity for all of us to solidify (our) ranks to regain what is legally and morally ours in the first place," he told the INQUIRER.

"But the appeal should not be confined to the return of the coconut levy money alone. There should also be justice for all the victims of the greatest scam of all times. The perpetrators should all be put to jail," he said.

Tañada also expressed hope that the new presidential order, should Ms Macapagal issue one, would provide for the recognition of the mandate that the fund should be under the auditing procedures of the Commission on Audit.

A couple of months ago prior to the ouster of Estrada, the Palace was working on the monetization of a portion of the coco levy fund, worth P50 billion, to fund the planned rehabilitation of the coconut industry based on the provisions of EO 313.

However, the Sandiganbayan issued a ruling that said the government could not use the levy funds because they were in *custodia legis* or under the custody of the court. ***Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Classrooms, toilets not priority projects of DPWH

SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—Roads, canals and bridges received priority funding in Central Luzon last year, relegating much-needed classrooms and toilets in public schools to the bottom of the Department of Public Works and Highways' 2000 project list.

Not one of the 375 projects involving the construction of classrooms and toilets in public elementary and high schools in Central Luzon was started last year, figures obtained by the INQUIRER from the regional DPWH showed.

A total of 521 regular infrastructure projects got a P556.469 funding last year.

No additional classrooms or toilets were built last year because the Department of Budget and Management, saddled with a budget deficit, released late the special allotment release orders (SAROs) for these projects.

SAROs are DBM documents notifying the DPWH that funds are already available for use.

Some teachers have suspected that most of the national government's funds went to the war that the Estrada administration waged in Mindanao.

It was not known how many classrooms and toilets should have been built or repaired or if how many students stood to benefit from these because these were not mostly indicated in reports of the DPWH district offices.

Bulacan continued to benefit most from the Department of Education, Culture and Sports' school building program. Last year, Bulacan was supposed to have 96 school building projects. Tarlac got 69 while Nueva Ecija and Pampanga obtained 63 each.

Olongapo City, at 14, got the lowest share of these projects.

The number of school building projects in the region has been declining, although student population in public schools has been going up, DECS figures showed.

According to DPWH figures, similar projects totaled 427 in 1998, 389 in 1999 and 375 last year.

All school building projects for 1998 and 1999 were implemented a year late of their scheduled completion date because the SAROs were issued late.

The budget for these projects continued to drop in the last two years.

In contrast, funds for regular infrastructure project rose. In 1998, the funds for these were only P296 million. In 1999, these almost doubled to P554 million. Almost all of these projects were completed within the target dates.

The implementation of infrastructure projects related to rural development, food security, General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program were also delayed due to floods, late SAROs and other reasons that the DPWH found justified.

Three of the biggest projects in 1999 handled by the regional DPWH office also suffered from delays. These are the P40-million Nueva Ecija-Pangasinan Road, the P50-million Nueva Ecija-Aurora Road and the P32-million Palauig Road in Zambales. The reasons for the delay were not cited. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Cops promise to recapture murder suspect

STA. CRUZ, Laguna—A Philippine National Police provincial official has assured the widow and relatives of murder victim Clarence Agarao, a lawyer, that the prime suspect in the killing, who bolted jail a few days ago, has not yet gone far.

Supt. Florencio Magundayao, Laguna police assistant provincial director, said authorities were vigorously pursuing leads on the whereabouts of Luisito San Juan.

Magundayao added that police operatives had launched a massive manhunt operation to recapture the main suspect in the killing of Agarao.

Magundayao said the suspect could be recaptured in a few days.

He said the suspect would not be harmed to enable him to testify on who the mastermind of the killing was.

"We cannot yet say in finality that a certain Hector Samonte pointed (to) by San Juan was the real mastermind because Samonte would not confirm his earlier testimony," he said.

Meanwhile, the police officer dismissed as baseless the accusations of the victim's widow, Carina Agarao of the Crusade Against Violence, that the escapee has connections with Deputy Director General Leandro Mendoza, newly appointed acting Philippine National Police chief. ***Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Lesbians demand laws recognizing gay rights

BAGUIO CITY—Lesbians who actively supported the campaign to oust President Estrada have called on other lesbians to unite and lobby for the enactment of laws supporting the rights of homosexuals.

"We encourage lesbians to come out (in the open) to support anti-discrimination policies," said Anna Leah Sarabia, executive director of Can't Live in the Closet Inc., a Filipino lesbian non-government organization.

In a forum on religion and lesbianism on Tuesday, Sarabia said lesbians were upset because no action has been taken yet on some bills pending in Congress that support the elimination of discrimination against homosexuals.

Among these bills were:

- House Bill 2648, sponsored by Quezon City Rep. Reynaldo Calalay, which calls for sectoral representation of homosexuals in the House of Representatives.
- Resolution No. 137 directing the Senate committees on justice and human rights and on social justice, welfare and development to look into the reported stereotyping and non-acceptance by society of homosexuals and job discrimination against homosexuals.
- House Bill 7165, the proposed Lesbian and Gay Rights Act of 1999, which calls for the legalization of same-sex partnerships. It was filed by Aurora Rep. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo.

These bills have been labeled as "sin bills" by the Catholic Church that took the lead in the anti-Estrada protests, according to the lesbians.

Sarabia said since lesbians have not been accepted and recognized by society, most of them flee their homes because they are condemned by their relatives.

Thus, lesbians suffer from low self-esteem, she added.

Prof. Jennifer Josef of the University of the Philippines College Baguio said a group of lesbians felt insulted during an Edsa rally when some ralliers taunted Sen. John Osmeña as "gay."

"We are glad that gays and lesbians came out at Edsa. It has its positive effect on us but there is also a backlash. The backlash was when they found it surprising that lesbians are also decent human beings," Josef said.

She, however, said their struggle for self-determination should not be credited on their participation in the Edsa rallies alone.

"The advocacy should continue," she said.

Sarabia estimated that 10 percent of the female population in the country are active lesbians. ***Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Continued talks with ex-NPAs urged

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Chief Supt. Julius Yarcia, Philippine National Police chief for Western Visayas, is asking President Macapagal-Arroyo to pursue peace talks with the breakaway communist faction Rebolusyonaryong Partido ng Manggagawa-Pilipinas (RPM-P).

He said he recommended the reconstitution of a government peace panel because of the recent change of administration.

It would be up to the Arroyo administration to decide the composition of the new negotiating panel, he added.

Yarcia's recommendation to pursue the peace talks with the RMP-P was channeled through Director Gen. Leandro Mendoza last week shortly after President Macapagal expressed her desire to pursue peace talks with the Communist Party of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

A police official in Salvador Benedicto town, who asked not to be identified, said the leaders of Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade, the RPM-P's armed group, have signified their intention to pursue the peace talks.

Former executive secretary Edgardo Angara was the head of the peace panel negotiating with the RPM-P under the Estrada administration.

He and Nilo de la Cruz, head of the RMP—P peace panel, signed a peace agreement on Dec. 10 in Don Salvador Benedicto town, 47 kilometers northwest of Bacolod.

President Estrada and his ally, businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, witnessed the signing of the peace agreement. Cojuangco was acknowledged as an intervenor in the talks.

Among those stipulated in the agreement were the release of 200 political prisoners in the country and the gradual release of P500 million in development funds as part of confidence-building measures in the peace negotiation with the breakaway movement.

In return, the RPA-ABB agreed to suspend its offensives against government forces during the duration of the peace talks.

The RPM-P is a faction that broke away from the mainstream Communist Party of the Philippines and its military arm, the New People's Army, in the wake of widespread discontent over the leadership of Jose Ma. Sison, who is based in the Netherlands.

Although the RPA-ABB operates nationwide, the bulk of its forces, however, is on Negros Island.

Peace talks with the mainstream CPP-NDF collapsed following the ratification of the Visiting Forces Agreement by the Senate.

The CPP refused to declare a ceasefire during the last holiday and vowed to step up its attacks on government forces and targets.

W. Mindanao needs 3,000 teachers

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The Department of Education, Culture and Sports in Western Mindanao has asked Sen. Raul Roco, the newly appointed education secretary, to address the shortage of teachers in the region.

Ibrahim Albar, DECS regional director here, said they need 3,000 teachers to augment the current teaching force of 22,438 in Western Mindanao.

"We need more teachers very badly. It's an urgent need that has to be addressed by our new secretary. Aside from more teachers, we also need more classrooms, facilities and instructional materials like chairs and books," Albar said.

"These problems are recurring every year. The demand is getting bigger because of (a) continuous increase in the number of enrollees," he said.

Based on DECS-Western Mindanao records, there are 767,383 students in private and public schools for the school year 2000-2001.

Albar said in some areas in Basilan, Zamboanga del Norte and Zamboanga del Sur school divisions, teachers have to accommodate 60 to 65 pupils in a class.

Teachers, he said, handle three to four classes a day, making them "overburdened."

Teachers and students in Western Mindanao are also in constant threat. *Julie Alipala-Inot, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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TOPAZ
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RUBY 2
DIAMOND BENCH
2-Seater, 44.5" length 3-Seater, 61.75" length
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JASPER BENCH 3-SEATER 53" length 4-SEATER 69" length
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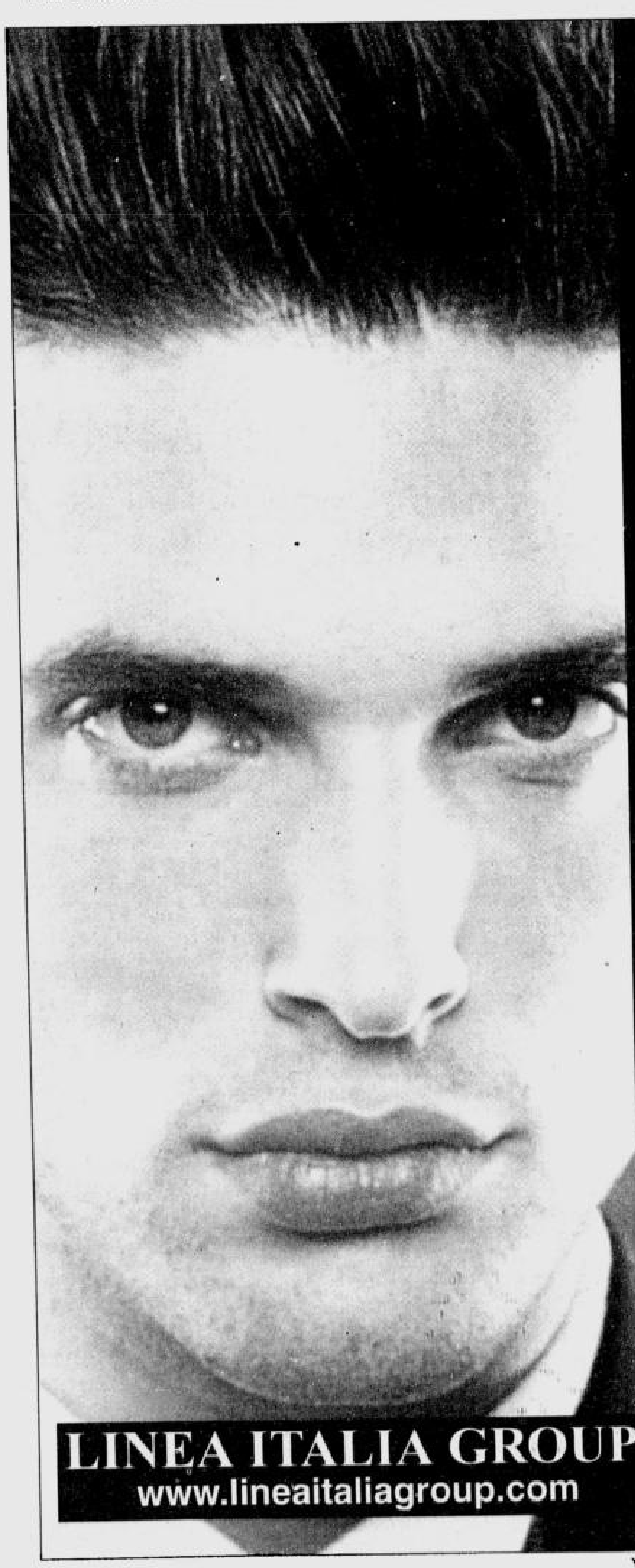

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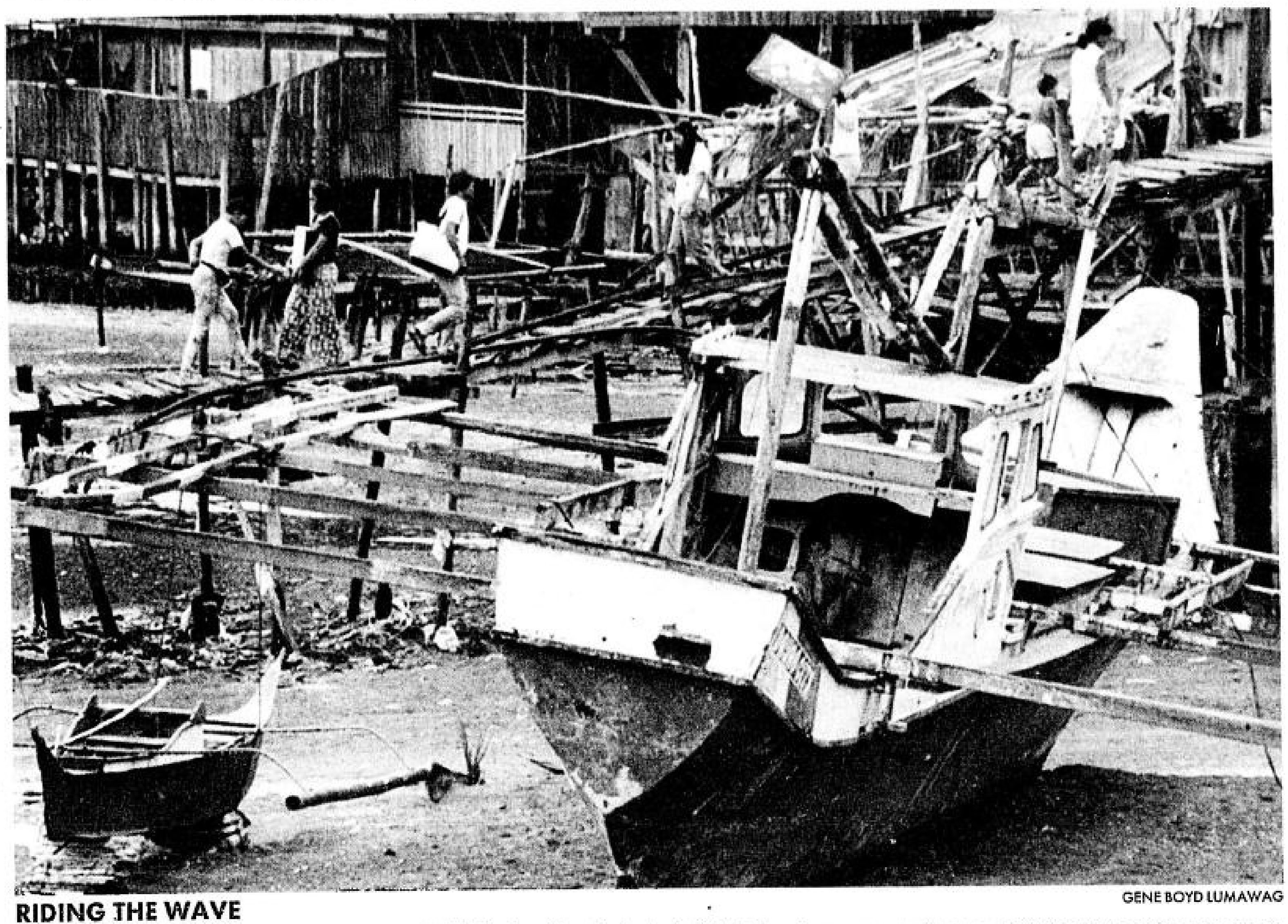


GENE BOYD LUMAWAG

RIDING THE WAVE

It's not the big waves of the sea that this boy in this fishing boat has to deal with but the tougher, more cruel waves of life that have, at his young age, already battered his ship, forcing him to a daily routine of abandonment.

Gloria urged: Start probe of 'Cronyville' in Camp John Hay

BAGUIO CITY—Now it's time for President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to test the waters in Camp John Hay.

A councilor here will file tomorrow a resolution requesting Ms Macapagal to order an investigation of the "development" of the former Voice of America compound at Camp John Hay where at least 20 log cabins worth at least P40 million each were being built supposedly for former President Estrada and his cronies.

Councilor Richard Cariño said under Mr. Estrada, the VOA compound was "suddenly included" in an amended lease contract to develop the former American facility into a tourism complex.

"The former VOA portion was never included in the original contract of lease between the Bases Conversion Development Authority and the Camp John Hay Development Corp." Cariño said.

He said the CJHDevco has converted the VOA into an "exclusive private subdivision for the super rich."

"There is a need to ferret out the truth about the perceived corrupt wholesale of (the) VOA by local and national government officials to benefit only the few and effectively (keep) the people of Baguio City from using and enjoying it," Cariño said.

The residential portion of the VOA compound is known here as "Cronyville" because most of the log cabins had been reserved for Mr. Estrada's close friends.

The companies and people who either bought or had reserved log cabins at the compound have been, on various occasions, associated with Mr. Estrada.

A document obtained by the INQUIRER listed the following companies and individuals: CJH Corporate (Camp John Hay Development Corp.), Northwoods (Northwood Resources Corp.), Ricky Razon, Frederick Dy, Manuel Pangilinan, Manuel Villar, Fernando Poe Jr., Jacinto Ng, Wilson Sy, Lucio Co, Dante Tan and Ramon Ang.

An earlier list showed the following names: Zamora (no first name), Lucio Tan, Willie Ocier, Jaime Dichaves, William Gatchalian and Manny Tan.

The companies listed were Manta Equities Inc., Adelfa Properties, International Container Terminal Services Inc., Blue Sphere, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and VFC Land Resources. *Frank Cimatu and Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Sayyaf leader cornered, says Army

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Ahmad Salayyudin alias Abu Sabaya is "cornered" in a village in Indanan, Sulu, the military here said.

Col. Hilario Atendido, Southern Command spokesperson, said Sabaya, whose real name is Aldam Tilao, is in Barangay Tungkay in Indanan.

Sabaya allegedly attended the wedding of another Abu Sayyaf leader in the village last week.

Atendido said immediately after Sabaya's sighting, government forces were sent to Barangay Tungkay.

"He has not yet come out from the place and we believe he'll be going back to Patikul if he had the chance to sneak out of the military cordon," Atendido said.

Atendido said alleged captive American Jeffrey Schilling was seen with Sabaya.

Another hostage, Rolando Ullah, remains in the hands of his Abu Sayyaf abductors. Ullah is one the hostages taken from a dive resort in Sipadan, Malaysia, last year.

Maj. Gen. Narciso Abaya, chief of the 1st Infantry Division, said a total of 223 Abu Sayyaf members have been killed since the military launched an offensive against the bandit group last year.

No deadline

But Abaya refused to give another deadline for the capture of Abu Sayyaf leaders and their members.

"I will not give a deadline, I've been burned with that," he said.

But Abaya said he was optimistic that his troops would be able to rescue Schilling and Ullah, and capture Abu Sayyaf leaders Khadaffy Janjalani, Abu Sabaya, Ghalib Andang and Mujib Susukan.

He also revealed that Janjalani and Sabaya's group recently demanded a P4 million-ransom in exchange for Schilling's freedom.

There are doubts about Schilling's abduction. The American was allegedly seized when he entered the Abu Sayyaf camp with his Filipina wife.

Despite the military offensive against the Abu Sayyaf, abductions in some parts of Mindanao continue.

In Labangan, Zamboanga del Sur, the military said a female trader who was abducted in Zamboanga del Sur in November last year is being kept by her captors in Basilan.

Maj. Gen. Narciso Abaya, chief of the Army's First Infantry Division, also said the abductors of Marilyn Tiu are demanding P250,000 in "board and lodging" fees.

Abaya said based on intelligence reports, the victim is being kept either in Tuburan or Tipo-Tipo in Basilan.

Abaya advised Tiu's family not to negotiate through go-betweens.

"We would like to caution the family not to easily believe in them (negotiators) because there are unscrupulous people who would take advantage of the incident," he said.

Tiu, 36, was snatched by 10 suspected members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front on Nov. 28 last year from her residence in Sitio Guicam, Dawa-Dawa in Alicia town.

Three civilians were killed when soldiers engaged the suspects in a 15-minute firefight. Five of the suspects were also killed.

The Tius own a fleet of buses plying Zamboanga del Sur. *Jonathan F. Ma and Hernan P. dela Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ARMY RAIDS NPA CAMPS

6 rebels killed, 6 others captured

LUCENA CITY—Philippine Army soldiers yesterday claimed it killed six members of the New People's Army when they overran a guerrilla camp in the jungles of the Laguna-Quezon boundary.

The killing of the guerrillas came in the wake of a declaration made by the Communist Party of the Philippines that rebels will step up offensives against the government even under the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Maj. Gen. Jose Lachica, chief of the newly activated Joint Task Force Southern Luzon of the Armed Forces based in Camp Guillermo Nakar here, said a group of Scout Rangers under a certain Lt. Dingle engaged the rebels in a gunfight that started at around 6 a.m.

Lachica said the dead rebels were still unidentified.

The soldiers recovered six firearms during the raid on the camp, he said.

He added that he believed that there could be more rebel casualties than what the soldiers had counted because of traces of blood seen at the site of the encounter.

The Army is hunting guerrillas who fled when they realized that the soldiers had superior firepower, according to Lachica.

In a statement dated Jan. 22 and titled "The Overthrow of the US-Estrada Regime and Our Tasks Under the Macapagal-Arroyo Regime," the CPP declared that NPA rebels would step up its armed struggle in all guerrilla fronts nationwide by launching more and bigger tactical offensives.

'Biggest cronies'

It also said that the "biggest cronies and plunderers who benefited during the US-Estrada regime remain as targets (for execution), as with despised military units that owe blood debts to the people."

The military continued to claim success in its fight against the NPAs.

In a town 40 kilometers west of Ormoc City, soldiers said they captured six guerrillas during a raid on a rebel camp.

Among those arrested was Gloria Pabillon, 32, of Samar, the alleged leader of the guerrillas who were cornered in their camp in Barangay Canbabad, Matag-ob town.

The Army identified the five other arrested as Ronelo Canonigo, 22, of Ormoc; Michael Bardillon, 19, of Tacloban City; Rey Cejano, 20, Matag-ob town; Mario Mololoyon, 23, of Kananga town; and Cerilo Berano, 46, of Matag-ob.

The raid, conducted by the Task Force Leyte of the 8th Infantry Division, also yielded three Armalite rifles, ammunition and communist documents.

Col. Ernesto Tobias, intelligence and operations officer of the Leyte Task Force, said the Armalites recovered from the camp might have come from the government's arsenal as indicated by their serial numbers.

Pabillon, who acted as the group's spokesperson, admitted that they owned the firearms. She said they joined the rebel movement because of the disparity between the poor and the rich and the utter neglect of farmers by the government.

The suspects were turned over to the police for detention pending the filing of charges of rebellion and illegal possession of firearms.

Col. Mateo Barrion Jr., Task Force Leyte commander, described the rebel camp as an underground cave.

The task force learned about the camp when intelligence agents reported the group's alleged extortion activities in the community, he said.

Raid planned

A raid was planned in the area and launched by a 10-man team headed by T/Sgt. Romeo Pedrosa. The soldiers walked for two hours before reaching Barangay Cambadbad, about five kilometers from the poblacion.

When the soldiers reached the camp, five of them maintained their positions about 200 meters from where the guerrillas were as the other soldiers approached the camp.

The soldiers asked the guerrillas to surrender or a grenade would be thrown at them. The six rebels did not fight back.

Supt. Orlando Mabutas, Ormoc police chief, said the group might be members of the NPA's Mt. Amendewin Command, which was responsible for several attacks, including last year's ambush of Antonio Labra, former vice mayor of Kananga town.

The Mt. Amendewin Command also claimed responsibility for the burning of a Philippine National Oil Corp. service vehicle on Nov. 21 in Kananga at the height of the labor crisis involving the management and the Leyte A. Geothermal Project Employees Union.

Mabutas said he suspected the group to be responsible for the killing of Romulo Suco, a 52-year-old barangay captain of Cacao, also in Kananga. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; and Jani Arnaiz and Felix Codilla III, PDI Visayas Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Cop kills cop over sentry duty

ALICIA, Isabela—Quarreling over their assignment, a policeman shot and killed another policeman inside a police station here Wednesday night. Reports said P03 Orlando Romero died of two bullet wounds while P03 Hernando Barade suffered bruises and contusions after they had an argument on who would be on sentry duty Wednesday night. The argument led to a fistfight and to the fatal shooting. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Campus journalism meet set

SAN FERNANDO CITY—More than 7,000 student writers and school publications advisers will gather in Dagupan City for the 2001 National Secondary Schools Press Conference on Feb. 5-9. Education Undersecretary Ramon Bacani Jr. would be the guest during this year's NSSPC. This year's competitions and journalism seminars will have the theme "Campus Journalism to Promote National Solidarity and Respect for Cultural Diversity." *Peter La. Julian, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Kidnapped boy rescued

COTABATO CITY—Police late Monday rescued a 5-year-old boy who was kidnapped and kept captive for at least 54 days in North Cotabato. Eduard John Agustin was rescued from a safehouse near the boundary of Pigcawayan, North Cotabato and Kabuntalan in Maguindanao at about 10 p.m. according to Insp. John Bongabong, Pigcawayan police chief. Agustin was seized on Nov. 28 in Barangay Batiocan in Libungan, North Cotabato, allegedly by followers of Mayangcang Saguile. Saguile, considered the most wanted kidnap gang leader in Central Mindanao, carries a P300,000 prize on his head. Police said an informant tipped police operatives of the kidnappers' whereabouts. Police and military personnel surrounded the safehouse in Maguindanao's Liguasan Marsh, where the boy and three of the kidnappers were spotted. The kidnappers fled when gunshots rang out, leaving the boy behind. The victim, a son of a crop trader, showed no signs of illness, except for a few mosquito bites. Col. Tesero Badayos, chief of staff of the 2nd Marine Brigade, said government troops are still hunting Saguile and his followers in Kabuntalan and nearby areas. *Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Accused in rape case hangs self

BATAC, Ilocos Norte—An inmate charged with rape hung himself inside his cell at the municipal jail here on Wednesday. Policemen found inmate Orlando Taculog, 49, hanging inside his cell at 3:45 p.m. Taculog was jailed on Wednesday morning after residents of Barangay San Mateo here caught him raping his second cousin at knifepoint. Police said Taculog hung himself with a nylon cord that was used to repair an old folding bed inside the cell. *Kira Espino, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Bus hits, kills woman

MARILAO, Bulacan—A 75-year-old woman was bumped and killed by a bus along the stretch of the North Luzon Expressway in Barangay Lias here on Thursday. Police said Maxima Penala, a retired schoolteacher, suddenly crossed the expressway and was hit by a Baliuag Transit bus. Bus driver Ronald Castro surrendered to the Marilao police. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

NFA workers appeal to GMA to stop agency privatization

NAGA CITY—The National Food Authority Employees Association (NFAEA) has asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to repeal an executive order engineered by former Agriculture Secretary Edgardo Angara that gave vast powers to the department chief.

Roman M. Sanchez, NFAEA national president, said they submitted on Wednesday to Ms Macapagal their position paper on Executive Order 315 that they claimed gave the agriculture secretary "blanket authority to change the structure, functions and directions of the NFA."

EO315, signed on Nov. 9, by then President Joseph Estrada, transferred the NFA from the Office of the President to the Department of Agriculture.

In a telephone interview yesterday, Sanchez claimed that EO315 gave the agriculture chief excessive and dangerous authority that would only threaten, rather than safeguard, the country's food security.

He said EO 315 was a gift to Angara for supporting Estrada at a time when the clamor for his resignation was growing stronger.

"We have to note that this EO was signed amid the political crisis engulfing the President and that he needed allies at a time when his close advisers had already deserted him," Sanchez said.

He added that the tradeoff, which led to Estrada's signing of the EO, is a disservice to Filipinos.

Allan Sabaybay, NFAEA-Bicol chair, said EO 315 was the first step toward the privatization of the NFA.

Sabaybay said the change in the NFA's organization and functions would set in motion Angara's scheme to take away the marketing and trading functions of the NFA and hand these over to the private sector.

Unpassed bills

The original proposal to privatize the NFA through Senate Bill 1834 and House Bill 3898 or the Grains Sector Development Program (GSDP) bills, failed to pass in Congress despite almost two years of lobbying by Angara, Sabaybay said.

Sabaybay said Angara even tried to convince Regional Development Councils nationwide to endorse the privatization of the NFA or the GSDP but he said they were able to thwart the move by submitting petition papers that several farmers and organizations signed.

Sanchez said the GSDP is attached to a $175-million loan from the Asian Development Bank, of which $75 million is intended for the purchase of computers and other non-agriculture related projects.

He said $100 million of the loan was allocated to finance the budget deficit that has grown to some P190 billion.

Sanchez added that EO 135 had been designed to "clip the corporate wings of NFA," which, he said, is in accordance with the conditions the Asian Development Bank imposed for the implementation of the GSDP.

He said the EO fast-tracked the GSDP or the NFA privatization by reorganizing, merging, streamlining, deactivating and disposing of its assets.

Sanchez said the 3,000-strong NFAEA had requested a dialogue with Ms Macapagal on E0 135 and the GDSP.

He claimed that the NFAEA already submitted to then Vice President Macapagal on Nov. 15, during a consultation, a letter that sought the review of the government's policy on the privatization of the NFA.

Sanchez said the position paper they submitted Wednesday was a follow-up to that letter. *Juan Escandor, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Roxas matriarch drops Congress bid

ROXAS CITY—The matriarch of the powerful Roxas political clan has dropped plans to run for a seat in the House of Representatives.

Judy Araneta Roxas said she changed her mind about taking a direct part in politics after her son, Manuel Araneta Roxas III, was re-appointed trade and industry secretary.

Ms Roxas said she entertained thoughts of taking a seat in the House when her son resigned last year amid the corruption scandal that led to the ouster of President Estrada.

During that time, Ms Roxas said she felt that without a Roxas in the government, the people of Capiz would suffer a "leadership vacuum."

"Mar enjoyed a lot his work at the DTI (Department of Trade and Industry) and felt some kind of fulfillment there," Ms Roxas said.

Ms Roxas won't be out of the limelight, however. She said she would campaign hard for candidates of the Liberal Party, her late husband's political party, in the May elections.

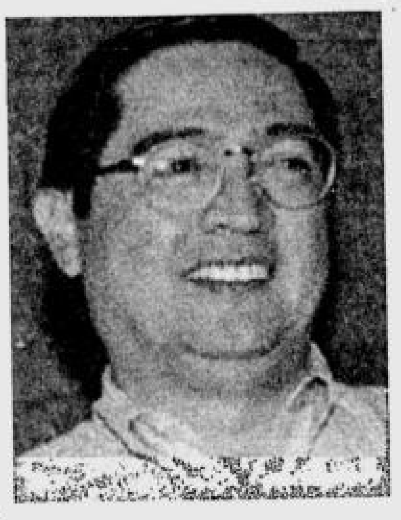
Ms Roxas also extended her gratitude to President Macapagal-Arroyo for "the trust and confidence she had reposed on my son." *Gerry T. Pagharion PDI Visayas Bureau*

INQUIRER Mindanao
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ▣ CAROLYN O. ARGUILLAS, Bureau Chief

The Mindanao agenda for GMA administration

BY CAROLYN O. ARGUILLAS AND JOWEL F. CANUDAY

DATUMANONG


DOMINGUEZ

DUREZA

What now, Mindanao? Two months ago, the major question was: "If President Estrada resigns or is removed by impeachment, what will Mindanao's future be like under the Macapagal administration?"

And more questions:

Will the new administration adhere to the Constitution and renounce war as an instrument of national policy in dealing with rebellions in Mindanao?

Will it draw up a comprehensive peace agenda that will really address the roots of the problem?

Will it, within its first hour or first week in office, declare a unilateral ceasefire, get the Moro Islamic Liberation Front back to the negotiating table, order the military back to the barracks, and ensure that the thousands of evacuees who have not been able to return to their villages can now go home?

Will it heed the plea of Sulu residents to demilitarize their province?

Will it ensure the areas most ravaged by war be given top priority in the rehabilitation efforts even if the war victims' political leaders stuck it out with deposed President Joseph Estrada?

Will it implement the 1996 peace agreement with the Moro National Liberation Front and work out a negotiated settlement with the MILF and other rebel forces?

Hope

There are no definite answers as yet, but the ouster of Estrada by People Power II and the assumption to the presidency of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, ushered in hope for most Mindanaoans, including the war refugees who have been staying in evacuation centers in Marawi City since March last year.

The MILF had expressed willingness to return to the negotiating table; the MNLF has expressed support for the current administration.

The week-old administration has promised to "reconstruct" the peace process to ensure a "final negotiated political settlement."

The government peace panel has yet to be formally set up. MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said his group could immediately reconstitute the peace panel it disbanded on Aug. 19, with some members retained.

No ceasefire has been declared as yet.

No dramatic results

Do not expect "dramatic results" but expect "progress" when the government and the MILF finally resume peace negotiations, said newly installed Secretary Paul Dominguez, presidential adviser for regional development.

Dominguez said the reconstruction of the peace efforts was "not going to be instantaneous" since there is going to be "a long process of building confidence again (between the government and the MILF and) reestablishing contacts to determine whether a final political solution can really be put in place."

But, he said, "we are taking the first initial steps toward the reconstruction of the peace process and this is a very big departure from the all-out war strategy" of the Estrada administration.

Other questions posed two months ago were: Will the new administration name a Mindanaoan to the Cabinet? Will it ensure that the Moro people are represented in national governance—in the Cabinet, judiciary, Congress and government-owned and -controlled corporations—as mandated in the 1996 peace pact or even if the mandate does not come from a peace pact?

To date, three Mindanaoans have been appointed to the Macapagal Cabinet. They are:

- Paul Dominguez, presidential assistant for Mindanao under the Ramos administration, now presidential adviser on regional development (a position carrying the title of secretary); special envoy to Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia; and chair of the Development Bank of the Philippines.
- Davao del Norte Rep. Pantaleon Alvarez Jr., secretary of transportation and communications.
- Maguindanao Rep. Simeon Datumanong, secretary of public works and highways, the first Muslim occupying a Cabinet portfolio after the Macapagal administration in the 1960s.

Jesus Dureza, also a presidential assistant for Mindanao under Ramos, was named presidential assistant for Southeastern Mindanao and acting chair of the Mindanao Economic Development Council (Medco).

Ms Macapagal has yet to complete her appointments to the Cabinet.

"We need Mindanaoan faces in the Cabinet," she said on a nationwide television program, adding that while her choice of Cabinet members was heavily criticized by various sectors, "in Mindanao, they are euphoric."

'Early results'

In a press conference in Davao City on Saturday, Mindanaoans in the Cabinet (except Datumanong) vowed to "deliver early results" and show their best to prove their detractors wrong.

Dureza said he found it unfortunate that the criticisms over Ms Macapagal's appointments were raised only after she picked "two unknown gentlemen who come from Mindanao not known to the Makati Business Club."

He was referring to the appointment of Datumanong and Alvarez.

Dureza said the President appointed some politicians during the first two days of her stay in Malacañang, but criticisms started pouring in when Datumanong and Alvarez were appointed.

Dureza dismissed criticisms that the Cabinet is composed mainly of persons close to former Presidents Fidel Ramos and Corazon Aquino.

"When we are there (with the Macapagal Cabinet), we are no longer Ramos boys or Cory boys. When we are there, we are Gloria's team already," he said.

Dominguez said they can prove their detractors wrong by delivering "early results."

Alvarez promised to show his best performance in the DOTC as he appealed to the public to give them a chance to prove their worth and what they can do for the country.

Dominguez said the appointment of Alvarez and Datumanong was a manifestation that the President was serious in her commitment to give priority to addressing problems faced by Mindanao.

"Congressman Alvarez and Congressman Datumanong hold very important Cabinet ministries that are especially important to Mindanao because Mindanao's problems had always been associated with inadequate infrastructure," Dominguez said.

Alvarez said the transportation and public works departments were the main "tools" of the government in development efforts. He noted that the DOTC's authority encompassed regulation and development of seaports, airports, land, sea and air transportation, and telecommunications.

With Datumanong at the helm of the DPWH, he said, efforts would be boosted to link various towns and cities in Mindanao and with Visayas and Luzon.

"Having these two departments, we have an assurance that we can do so much for Mindanao. I'm not saying that that the development will be initiated only in Mindanao since we are a national agency, but this time, we will give Mindanao development a priority," he said.

From Marcos to Estrada

Representation has always been a battlecry among Mindanaoans.

In the Estrada administration, only one Mindanaoan was named to the Cabinet, former Zamboanga del Sur Rep. Antonio Cerilles, the most controversial among his Cabinet appointments.

The late Hilarion Ramiro Jr. (Misamis Occidental) was appointed health secretary under the Ramos administration, but he was forced to resign due to charges of corruption.

Roberto Sebastian (Davao del Norte), agriculture secretary under Ramos, resigned in the wake of a rice crisis.

Other Mindanaoans who occupied posts either under Ramos or Aquino were Sen. Teofisto Guingona Jr. (Agusan del Norte) as justice secretary; Silvestre Bello III (Davao City), also as justice secretary; Hector Villanueva (Zamboanga del Norte), press secretary; and Senen Bacani (South Cotabato), agriculture secretary.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. (Cagayan de Oro City) served as local government secretary during the transition period between Edsa 1986 and the 1987 senatorial elections.

Also appointed local government secretary was Luis Santos (Davao City).

Carlos "Sonny" Dominguez (Davao City) was appointed agriculture Secretary.

In the Marcos Cabinet was Rodolfo del Rosario Jr., who was environment minister and is now governor of Davao del Norte.

3 priorities

Kusog Mindanaw, an advocacy organization of individuals and organizations in Mindanao, handed Ms Macapagal a resolution in November, demanding that the new administration ensure that it addresses the three "urgent" needs of Mindanao:

- The peace process through an immediate declaration of ceasefire, demilitarization, return of the remaining evacuees to their villages, rehabilitation and reconstruction, implementation of the 1996 peace pact, and immediate resumption of the peace talks with the MILF.
- At least three Mindanaoans, one undersecretary and one undersecretary each in the new Cabinet and representation in other key agencies in government.
- A review of the existing government development structures in Mindanao which include, among others, the possible abolition of the offices of Estrada's three Presidential Assistants for Regional Concerns (Pareco); the possible revival of the Office of the Presidential Assistant for Mindanao (OP-Min); the possible abolition or restructuring of the Mindanao Coordinating Council, which is tasked to coordinate rehabilitation, relief and peace and development efforts in war-ravaged areas; and the representation of various sectors in regional development councils.

Ancestral domain

For the *lumad*, genuine recognition of their rights to ancestral domain and self-determination is what they want to be on top of the priorities of the new administration.

Amelito Elio, secretary general of the Pasaka (Onward), a confederation of 10 *lumad* organizations in Southern Mindanao, said that among the concrete steps to attain this is the scrapping of the Philippine Mining Act of 1995, which liberalized the mining industry in the country and allowed multinational corporations to undertake large-scale mining in their areas.

Pasaka is also advocating for the scrapping of the Indigenous People's Rights Act, charging that the law is deceptive and can be used as an instrument by big business and other interest groups to force or deceive *lumad* to surrender their ancestral domain and lands.

Instead of the Ipra, Elio said the new administration should come up with new laws that will "genuinely" recognize their rights to self-determination and ancestral domain.

Top priority

For the Mindanao Business Council, an umbrella organization of the island's 42 business groups, the resumption of peace talks with the MILF should be the top priority of the administration.

MBC chair Joji Ilagan-Bian said the war in Central Mindanao and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao had stunted economic growth and adversely affected investor confidence, not only in Mindanao but in other parts of the country as well.

In August, the MBC drafted a "Mindanao Six-month Private Sector-led Economic Recovery Plan," outlining their recommendations for the rehabilitation and development of the island.

The major strategy of its advocacy involves negotiations with rebel groups for sustained peace, ensuring emergency relief assistance and reconstruction of areas damaged by the war, and stimulate consumer demands by pump-priming public investment for infrastructure projects in Mindanao.

The MBC recovery plan also recommended the pump-priming of agriculture and agro-industry, and the promotion of small and medium enterprises, and laying down policies to lower the cost of doing business and creating more trade opportunities in Mindanao.

"Mindanaoans know what we want, we know how much we want and when we exactly want it. It's just a matter of telling the new leadership to implement all of this as soon as possible," Bian said.

Where is Aling Mameng?

DUGONG MINDANAW

Homer A. Mabale

We want to know what the Mindanaoan youngblood, middle-aged blood or high blood are thinking about what's happening in Mindanao and the rest of the country. -- ED.

I WAS looking for her in vain. All I saw on TV were military defectors, politicians, would-be politicians and what have you. But Aling Mameng wasn't there.

For those who do not know her, she's the Melchora Aquino of my life. Thin, with protruding cheekbones, and old, she speaks with enthusiasm in many anti-Erap rallies of the urban poor. She is the darling of the crowd. That was not because she has Joyce Jimenez's boobs but because she has what Joyce doesn't have: the conviction for justice and the enthusiasm of an idealist.

Despite her age, she exuded a youthful flare of rage. I personally saw it through her eyes.

And despite her age, too, she has been there since the start when it was not easy to join the movement. The yuppies just came in time for the party, but not Aling Mameng.

I was looking for her on TV all throughout People Power II. I did shout my lungs out asking the static square machine to focus her face. I was a bit sad. I saw Sen. Francisco Tatad's face instead. I was angry.

The whole point of People Power I and II is about the Aling Mamengs of this world. After we are back to our ordinary lives with ordinary concerns, what will happen to the urban poor, the drivers, the fisherfolk and the factory workers? Will they get social security?

No problem with the middle classes and the business elite. They will continue to receive their salaries and premiums, not to mention the victorious feeling of being right after all. But the poor people cannot live by feelings alone.

In the forging of government programs, will Aling Mameng sit in a board as consultant, or will she be left out again in the dark, thinking about the next meal for her grandchildren?

Make no mistake about it. The real fight is now, the most difficult as it is about ordinary bread. No party, no fireworks, no euphoria like in Edsa.

Joseph Estrada is ousted, fine. But he still has millions to spend for lawyers' fees when he decides to contest the constitutionality of the new presidency. He stepped down from the Palace to live in another palace on Polk Street. But the poor people will go home to their shanties and sleep still under jaded roofs.

This is the core of the fight. Then, we were talking about moral governance; now, we should talk about economic survival. Then, we were discussing about a criminalized presidency; now, we should discuss the criminal social situation. Then, we were fighting against a Mafiosi attitude; now, we should fight for the masses' lives. Then, we were disempowering a President; now, we should empower the people.

People Power I was wasted along the way. The real hopes of making real changes turned into a contest of power. The people's agenda were left out in the jaundiced covenant thrown out like a butt of cigarette after a greedy suck.

Now, we have another historic opportunity to correct 15 years of insignificant wranglings. We have another historic energy to rebuild the lost dreams of real change, a change that will truly benefit the poor people.

We need to start with real programs of prosperity, not just mere promises.

The sectoral leaders—the genuine ones, of course—should be part of the new social reconstruction. The new government should see to it that they have a voice in the process of governance; not just a voice but a role in making the national agenda and the power to carry them out.

I won't mention my misgiving about appointing Jose Cuisia to the Bangko Sentral, but let us be fair.

If there's a question that the new President should ask, it should be: Where is Aling Mameng?

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AFP salutes Gloria

(From page A1)

tensified in coordination with the Philippine National Police," she said, adding:

"The fighting capabilities of local rebels and secessionist groups must be reduced, if not totally eradicated."

The President said peace talks with the communist National Democratic Front and the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front must be resumed.

She said she would also follow a "no negotiations" policy with the extremist Abu Sayyaf, which, she pointed, out, must be "neutralized."

3-pronged approach

The President said ensuring internal security was just part of a three-pronged approach that she intended to institute.

The second prong, she said, was the delivery of basic social services to the people, and the third, the offer of peace to various rebel groups.

She recalled that when Reyes decided to withdraw support from Estrada on Jan. 19, he did not ask anything for himself but only sought "good governance" from her.

She promised to give the people "good governance."

"This is the reason why I firmly believe that despite the rumors of dissension and destabilization initiatives allegedly from your ranks, the dedication and professionalism which you have demonstrated in the past will remain as the cornerstone in guaranteeing the sovereign rule of the people, as mandated by our Constitution," she said.

The President said she was confident that the military would continue to "stand united, with strict adherence to the chain of command, enhancing and maintaining a culture of professionalism, excellence and meritocracy (that) shall always be a way of life for each one of you."

She promised to put priority on the acquisition of modern equipment and weaponry for the AFP.

She also said military bases would be "systematically relocated" and their infrastructure redesigned.

She made no mention of criticisms aired over her appointment of retired Gen. Lisandro Abadia as national security adviser despite a graft case pending against him, or of earlier reports that Marine Lt. Gen. Edgardo Espinosa was bitter over not being given enough credit for helping topple Estrada.

One of the guys

In her address to the PMA alumni, the President—an honorary member of the 1978 Makatarungan Class—said she felt "comfortable being with cavaliers."

"I am certain that my being a woman is no barrier to being one of the guys," she declared.

She also told her audience that "your gallant display of courage, integrity and unequivocal loyalty to the Constitution opened the floodgates toward a peaceful and constitutional solution to the recent crisis."

Ms Macapagal recalled that it was her father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal, who renamed the then Camp Murphy as Camp Aguinaldo, in honor of the country's first president.

She promised to heal, unify and rebuild the nation through "leadership by example."

"Now that there is a renewal of people's confidence in the government, we must all together use and sustain the goodwill generated by our renewed solidarity with the rest of the Filipino nation," she said.

She also said she intended to balance the country's development and "improve moral standards."

Ms Macapagal described the ousted Estrada an "incompetent leader," and said it was a sense of professionalism that had prompted the PMAers to withdraw support from him.

"I know that I can count on you, just as I counted on you at Edsa," she said as she asked PMAers, both active and retired, to stay with her. "After all, we share common aspirations for peace."

The President added: "As your commander in chief, I trust that you will continue your devotion to your mission of service to our republic, to our people, and to the democratic principles that we hold dear and sacred.

"Together, let us all be '*kabalikat sa mapayapang pag-angat ng Pinoy* (shoulder to shoulder in the peaceful development of the Filipino).'"

It was a reference to this year's theme of the PMA.

Just last December, it was Estrada who addressed the AFP in its anniversary celebration—an event marked by the waving of lighted candles and the military hierarchy expressing continued support for his presidency.

'Outraged,' 'upstaged,' 'backstaged' celebrate

(From page A1)

Pilipino (Kompil II) and the Estrada Resign Youth Movement (ERYM) regrouped on Thursday and Friday nights to party, share funny experiences and discuss what needs to be done to achieve a pro-people and clean government.

The parties were held to prove that the Edsa spirit lives on and that People Power II happened all over the country.

They paid tribute to those who participated in the struggle to "reclaim" power from what they called a "corrupt and abusive" President.

Some complained of having been "upstaged" while others claimed to having worked very hard "backstage."

Students related how they successfully convinced school administrators to allow them to walk out of their classes and join the street protests.

The three separate parties were capped by a video show of the Jericho March at the Senate during the impeachment trial, simultaneous rallies nationwide and the People Power II uprising at the Edsa Shrine and Mendiola.

They also relived the "faux pas" at the impeachment trial that unwittingly ignited the people's uprising. They broke out in wild booing and shouting when the 11 senators appeared on screen.

The ERM feasted on pork lechon and roast beef, pancit, lumpiang shanghai, chicken and fish fillet.

Kompil had a simple dinner of chicken, pancit sotanghon and beef tocino while the ERYM, mostly composed of students from the College Editors Guild of the Philippines, the National Union of Students of the Philippines, Anakbayan and the League of Filipino Students were served packed dinners.

Dancing followed the dinner.

Culture shock

According to Rey Asis, CEGP president, the students seemed to undergo a "culture shock" when the sound system blared out "disco sounds"

"The 500 or so students seemed stunned as if they could not relate to the disco music. They seemed to prefer the Edsa chants of 'Erap resign, Erap resign,' 'Guilty si Erap,' 'Oreta pok-pok,' 'Miriam baliw,' and 'Itakwil si Tatad,'" Asis said.

The ERM held its victory party at the Ecological Center of Miriam College in Quezon City, the ERYM at the Hospicio de San Jose in Manila on Thursday night, and the Kompil at the Ateneo High School covered court in Quezon City on Friday evening.

One of the highlights of the ERM party was the arrival of superstar Nora Aunor, a longtime Estrada friend who defected to the opposition. Those of the protesters who were her fans delightedly proceeded to have their pictures taken with Aunor.

Teodoro Casiño, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan secretary general and ERM convenor, talked about the Jan. 16 walkout at the Senate impeachment trial, which was joined by the prosecutors and spectators. The walkout served to "upstage" the move of the 11 senators who voted against the opening of the second envelope containing damning evidence.

Casiño conceded that their walkout was upstaged in turn by the sudden resignation of Senate President Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel, whose gesture drove some of his senator-allies to tears.

But all these "upstaging" moves triggered the "serious outrage" that prompted the people to go out to the streets and press for Estrada's ouster, Casiño said.

Backstage

Behn Cervantes of the Concerned Artists of the Philippines, overall director of the protest actions from the day the call for Estrada to resign was made, said that while Casiño was concerned about upstaging other people, he worried about things happening backstage.

"Backstage, we had to deal with political intramurals, politicians' egos and especially the Johnnies-come-lately," Cervantes said.

He was referring to the differing ideologies and affiliations which the groups that came together to oust a common enemy tried to transcend.

These were the broad alliance of Kompil II headed by Dinky Soliman and Vicky Garchitorena; the Kangkong Brigade by Laguna Gov. Joey Lina; the Council for Philippine Affairs by former Tarlac Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco; the militant ERM by Bayan; the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino by Filemon Lagman; Sanlakas by Wilson Fortaleza; the moderate Trade Union Congress of the Philippines; and the Labor Solidarity Movement.

Cervantes said he found it difficult to balance the "hot mood" of the people when it came to discussing how to carry out their programs.

For instance, Cervantes said, he tried to find cool-headed program moderators to strike a balance.

Maan Hontiveros, Triccie Sison and Pinky Marquez had to contend with the egos of the resource speakers, he said.

These women, he said, had to be matched with a cool-headed man like Noel Trinidad.

"When one speaker (Popoy Lagman) called for a revolution on Ayala, the people from Makati did not know how to react, considering that we were talking blood here," he related.

"It was good that Noel Trinidad said, '*Huwag naman, duwag ako* (Don't do it, please, I'm a coward),'" Cervantes said.

Tempers

This brought down tempers that often came close to boiling because of the fast-changing political developments. Non-violent revolution still prevailed in the end, Cervantes acknowledged with relief.

Backstage, Cervantes said, he had to contend with politicians who would tell him, "Behn *ha*, three hours *na ako dito* (I've been here for three hours)."

"I'm so glad this did not happen 15 years ago, or I would have been tagged walkout king," he said. Cervantes thanked the Musicians for Peace, Tambisan, Sinaglaya, Lila, the Jerks, Put3ska and other performing artists who made the rallies livelier.

Fr. Joe Dizon, convenor of ERM, thanked all those who joined the protest-rallies nationwide.

"Not only in Metro Manila did People Power II happen. It was all over the country. They are our heroes," Dizon said.

Satur Ocampo, Bayan Muna chair, said it was not true that he had been offered and had accepted the agrarian reform portfolio.

No expectations

Ocampo said that while the militant groups were active in the protests, they were not expecting political concessions from President Macapagal.

"All we need is for us to attain our objectives, such as genuine agrarian reform, the return of peace negotiations and a pro-people agenda," Ocampo said.

Corazon "Dinky" Juliano Soliman, Kompil convenor who has been appointed secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, was warmly welcomed and congratulated by her activist colleagues.

They vowed that civil society, spearheaded by Kompil, would "help build a solid foundation" in the Macapagal administration.

All hail . . .

(From page A1)

the first Edsa.

Ateneo professors were among the hundreds who slept on the flyover pavement, on newspapers and carton. Sleeping 12 abreast the length of the flyovers, there was barely room for pedestrians to wend their way through the tired bodies.

"Folding beds" took on a new meaning at Edsa. Carton boxes, which the thoughtful brought along with food and water, were collapsed to make the beds. A middle-aged man passed out the boxes that he himself flattened for his beneficiaries. "Who wants one?" he asked in Tagalog.

Candle stations

At sunset, groups set up candle stations where people prayed.

Quick Chow trucks arrived with free noodle soup packs. Poor students and farmers were given first crack at the food since they had come from the provinces. Some came with pots and pans but did not have the basics to go in them.

Young electronics experts brought laser equipment to beam "What do Filipinos say? ERAP RESIGN!" on a flyover wall and against the POEA building across the way.

Fireworks lit up the sky—pinwheels, sprays, firebursts, and blue satellites—like lucent balls floating through air, enthralling the hundreds of thousands of indignant citizens and highlighting the patriotic mood.

In the uncertainty of each night, thoughts of trouble crept to mind. "What if?"

Grave danger might be lurking. A bomb hurled from a flyover could decimate thousands below. At Mendiola, there were snipers to worry about. But fear was far from the hearts of these fighters.

Songs were sung prayerfully. A crowd favorite was "Heal Our Land" sung by Jamie Rivera to which the multitude swayed and waved. "Bayan Ko," the perennial favorite, as well as the national anthem and "Pilipinas Kong Mahal," whose words many had forgotten until they got to the "Pilipinas kong mahal" part, had their share of exposure.

Bystanders on the route to Nagtahan and Mendiola passed out coffee, bread and *hopia* to the 30,000-strong who trekked to the Chino Roces Bridge on that fateful Saturday morning, sleepless from Edsa and definitely not in a nice mood.

Karina Constantino-David and Maan Hontiveros led the Mendiola group, while former Interior Secretary Rafael Alunan III whom police officials saluted snappily headed the Nagtahan group.

Others in this group were columnist Randy David and Edru Abraham of the ethnic music group Kontra-Gapi which led the chanting. Muslims led by Nabil Tan marched in the frontline of the 10-kilometer stretch from Edsa to Mendiola.

Homemade posters and masks were all crafted with ingenuity, some of them clearly pornographic, like Tessie Oreta doing obscene things to Erap which read "OOOOO Reta!"

"Guilty" stickers were handed out freely courtesy of hundreds of donors. A poster belying misgivings read: "Be a good girl GMA—behave yourself."

Teach-ins

Instant teach-ins were held when necessary. A pro-Estrada woman asking loudly why everyone was mad at her hero could have gotten roughed up. Instead, a small group took pains to explain the facts to her, assuming that she had no access to radio, television or newspapers.

At a construction site beside the Asian Development Bank, where a family had parked to walk to the shrine, workers asked why they were mad at Erap when he was for the poor.

A dialogue ensued, the long and short of it being that he could not be for the poor since he had robbed the nation. On Thursday afternoon, the construction workers displayed a hastily produced "Erap Resign" streamer, smiling proudly beside it. Others among them banged on pots and pans and chanted the mantra.

Mobile policemen in Mandaluyong joined the barrage of horn tooting, honking to the beat of "Erap Resign" and smiling and waving at protesters.

Maharishis

Maharishis were there too in their faded *kurtas*, banging on gongs and dancing. A few Caucasians were espied sporting "Erap Resign" headbands.

Wave upon wave, day after day, marchers from Bayan, Akbayan, TUCP, KMU and Sanlakas, showed up wherever they were needed in Metro Manila and other urban centers.

Private citizens and corporations paid for thousands of information kits with Chavit Singson's testimony mimeographed and his many taped conversations reproduced and sent nationwide via the Akbayan network, so that all of the people would know.

Professional groups organized marches—doctors, nurses, dentists, physical therapists—among many others.

Priests, seminarians and nuns by their high visibility served to keep morale up. When rock tunes were played, they danced as well as the next guy, wiggling hips and feet a-stomping.

'Walis Diyan'

The Walis Diyan Brigade against all odds cleaned up the shrine and its environs after the multitudes had tired, and before the next wave arrived.

A brigade of 40 or so motorcycle youths made sure female marchers were safe.

A sea change from Edsa I was the great number of students at this Edsa, youth we had long assumed didn't give two hoots. Their presence helped keep the atmosphere lively while restoring our faith in the next generation.

The private prosecutors who spent long nights researching the evidence and rehearsing witnesses—Sonny Mercado and Rafael Santos of the Carpio-Villaraza law offices, the brothers Sanidad, Pablito and Arno, and Jose Manuel Diokno of FLAG and Romeo Capulong, who all helped thwart the defense panel at the trial—were there.

Kompil II

Kompil II's contributions cannot be overlooked. They organized rallies and legal summaries for the press, strategized, sent messages and now they have set up a watchdog group to ensure that the new administration walks the straight and narrow.

Last April, Linggoy Alcuaz pushed on like a one-man army, peddling his exclamation point and Erap Resign stickers, working long and hard, a full nine months before his efforts were finally rewarded and he ceased being the butt of ridicule in some quarters. A debt of gratitude is owed him too.

Little guys, big guys, millions made it happen. We will not know their names, most of them, but they are the Clarissas, Emmas and Menchus at the ramparts. Fantastic Filipinos all.

No. 2 post a toss-up between Nene, Tito

(From page A1)

Drilon as a "dark horse" in the race for the country's second-highest post.

Other sources, however, said Las Piñas Rep. Manuel Villar was also in the running for the vice presidency.

Sources said the position had been promised to Villar who, as Speaker, succeeded last year in transmitting the impeachment complaint against then President Joseph Estrada from the House to the Senate.

But when contacted by the INQUIRER last night in Iloilo City, Villar said this was "absolutely not true."

"I'm not in serious running for the vice presidency," Villar said, adding that his plan was to seek a Senate seat.

The contenders are reluctant to talk, but the lobbying is intense. Various sectors, including the Church, Muslim groups, nongovernment organizations and business leaders, are airing and mobilizing support for their candidates.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is taking it slow.

She is expected to pick her vice president and concurrent foreign secretary from among Senators Pimentel, Guingona, Drilon, Loren Legarda and Ramon Magsaysay Jr.

Guingona and Pimentel are seen as the strongest contenders, but according to Sen. Renato Cayetano, Guingona has the "inside track."

The two men were said to have engaged in a shouting match last week over Pimentel's refusal to sign a resolution that Guingona principally authored expressing "recognition and support" for the President. *(See Page A3.)*

Pimentel said Guingona would probably use the resolution to boost his chances to be vice president.

There's yet another contender: Sen. Raul Roco, who said early last week that he would accept the post if it were offered to him.

Roco has been named education secretary but he has yet to be sworn in.

The President is to recommend her choice to the Senate and the House, which will vote for or against concurrence.

She is expected to name her choice before Feb. 8, when the term of the 11th Congress ends.

Since Day One

Guingona, president of Ms Macapagal's party Lakas, was the first to call for Estrada's resignation in April last year, in connection with charges of cronyism and mismanagement against the Estrada administration.

On Oct. 5, Guingona delivered an "I accuse" speech detailing Estrada's receipt of "jueteng" protection money.

Four days later, Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson came out with an expose that led to Estrada's impeachment trial and eventual ouster.

"If offered (the post), I will humbly accept," Guingona has told reporters.

As vice president, he said, he would make the post "more meaningful" by espousing an active economic diplomacy.

But Pimentel counts on a wide support group from Mindanao and the backing of business leaders, including Enrique Zobel.

In a letter to newspaper editors, Zobel said Pimentel played a heroic role, from his "dogged determination" to have the Senate blue ribbon committee continue its investigation of "Juetengate" to preventing the suppression of the truth in Estrada's trial.

"More than any other senator, Pimentel has contributed much to the welfare of the Filipino people," Zobel said.

"That he is from Mindanao and is held up as the leader of not only Christian Mindanao but Muslim Mindanao as well gives credence to the fact that Pimentel has the greatest chance of bringing about real peace and justice there," Zobel said.

The Regional Legislative Assembly of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao has passed a resolution endorsing Pimentel for the vice presidency.

Even the MILF

Moro Islamic Liberation Front chair Salamat Hashim also endorsed Pimentel, as did the Mindanao Peace Advocates Conference, Lihok-Mindanao, Co-op Life Mutual Benefit Services Association, and Mass-Specc Cooperative Development Center.

The De La Salle University Professional Schools Inc. and Graduate School of Business also backed Pimentel, who, they said, had "for three decades stood for freedom, integrity, public service and unwavering nationalism.".

Through all these, Pimentel is reticent.

"As I've always said, this is a matter completely in the hands of the President," he said earlier. "She should be given full leeway to determine the person who can assist her in the matter of governing the country."

But if chosen, Pimentel said, "the greatest contribution I can probably make is to help provide a just and lasting solution to the problem of Central and Southern Mindanao."

Pimentel replaced Drilon as Senate president when the latter bolted LAMP on Nov. 3 at the height of the Juetengate scandal.

Drilon said then that it was the price he had to pay for standing up to Estrada.

'Delicadeza'

Of the contenders, Drilon is the most "uncomfortable" talking about the vice presidency.

"It's not being reluctant (to take the post). It's a matter of *delicadeza*," he said.

Drilon is an original Edsa creation, having assumed his first public position during the administration of President Corazon Aquino.

He is said to have an "edge" because of Aquino's endorsement.

A number of Mindanao governors and the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (Ecop) yesterday endorsed Drilon, citing his "unblemished and distinguished record in public service."

"We all believe in his integrity, honesty, and leadership ability, and we believe that he is the right person to assist in the development of the country in general and Mindanao in particular," said Misamis Oriental Gov. Antonio Calingin.

Ecop, the largest group of employers in the country, said Drilon was the "most prepared" for the post.

Sin's choice

Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, as well as Fr. Anton Pascual, a member of the Macapagal search committee, is said to be in favor of Magsaysay, only son and namesake of the late President.

Like Pimentel, Magsaysay lost to Estrada in the 1992 vice presidential race.

He enjoys the support of the Catholic Church and various NGOs, as well as some Muslim groups.

Magsaysay recently declined the post of defense secretary, a post held by his father in the 1950s.

He said he had found out that the work was "too complex to handle."

Magsaysay was the first senator to bolt LAMP after Juetengate scandal broke out.

The Union for Fresh Leadership, a group of ex-activists and rebels, said it was lobbying for Magsaysay because of his "non-political image," "keen eye for the future," and "outstanding political track record."

Richard Arceño of the Bigay Buhay Multipurpose Cooperative wrote the President: "Magsaysay's will to uplift the quality of life of the less privileged members of our society, like persons with disabilities, is unprecedented."

'Princess'

Legarda has been dubbed the "people's princess" for her performance at Estrada's impeachment trial.

It was under her questioning that Equitable PCI Bank senior vice president Clarissa Ocampo disclosed the alleged attempt to transfer the ownership of the P500-million "Jose Velarde" account from Estrada to his friend Jaime Dichaves.

Legarda is backed by the Philippine Islamic Council, Ummah Party, Ittihadul Mashaikh and Marawi Sultanate League—said to be among the largest Muslim groups in the country.

Aleema Amirudding Sarangani of the Ummah Party said: "We have benefited greatly from Senator Legarda's participation in and deep understanding of the Jakarta peace (agreement). She has a firm grasp of our history as a religious and political group.

"Though she is Southern Tagalog and Visayan by blood, she was bestowed the title of an honorary Muslim princess because she has long been fighting with us for a cause."

The Buayan Agro-Forest Development Association, a large Bangsamoro NGO, said Legarda was its unanimous choice because of her fight for the truth at the trial, her good name and "genuine concern" for Muslims.

Sorsogon Bishop Jose Varela cited Legarda's "peace initiatives and unifying efforts," and said she had proven herself "worthy of being a leader of our nation."

Teodora, a civic organization working for the empowerment of women, also urged Ms Macapagal to choose Legarda.

Maribel Descallar, the group's president, said Legarda would serve "not only the cause of women but also the best interest of the nation."

Most of the contenders are expected to be Ms Macapagal's rivals in the 2004 race for the presidency. ***With a report from Christian V. Esguerra***

Three lessons . . .

(From page A1)

It is no longer acceptable for banks to assume a "see-no-evil-hear-no-evil" attitude when funds of dubious or questionable origin are deposited in their coffers. While legal arguments can be cited to justify the acceptance of a deposit, a moral obligation is imposed on the banks to make sure that the honestly earned money of their depositors are not mixed with "tainted" money.

The banks have been put on notice that when questions are raised about the regularity or validity of their bank accounts, it is the banks, not the depositors concerned, that will suffer the consequences of their act. Either by way of penal sanctions or public withdrawal of confidence in their integrity as an institution.

Lawyers

For lawyers, law students and those who want to enrich their knowledge in law, the trial became the forum for highlighting certain lessons in law practice that may find application to daily living.

The testimony of a truthful witness can stand severe scrutiny by the best trial lawyer. No matter how the brilliant defense lawyer Estelito Mendoza tried, Emma Lim, a clerk of Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis Singson, stuck to her testimony and made Mendoza look like an amateur cross-examiner.

The same thing happened in the cross-examination of former Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu, ex-Philippine Stock Exchange president Jose Luis Yulo and other prosecution witnesses.

In the effort to discredit the testimony of these witnesses, the defense lawyers strengthened, rather than weakened, the credibility of the facts the witnesses testified on.

Another lesson for lawyers to remember is that there is a limit to the efforts or enthusiasm of the lawyer in defending the interests of his client.

When a lawyer participates, directly or indirectly, in acts that tend to conceal his client's offense, or commits acts that can mislead a judge in the appreciation of a witness' credibility, he could find himself at the receiving end of a petition for disbarment or contempt of court.

The impeachment trial may be over but not for Mendoza and the two Fortun lawyers. They still have to answer complaints by fellow lawyers that they have not lived up faithfully to the ethics of the law profession.

Impeachment rules

Now that the heat and passion over the impeachment trial have subsided, it may be a good idea for both houses of Congress to review their respective rules on impeachment cases.

To the credit of the House of Representatives, it had already in place its rules on impeachment when non-governmental organizations filed impeachment charges against Estrada.

The Senate had to scramble to approve its rules on impeachment trial. Due to time constraints, the Senate had to copy those of the US Congress without studying the background of such rules.

It did not come as a surprise therefore that the rules of the House and the Senate came into conflict with each other as unexpected incidents came up in the course of the proceedings.

Illustrative of this point is the question on whether private lawyers can participate directly in the prosecution efforts.

The House rules are silent on this issue. According to the prosecutors, they can engage the service of private lawyers in the handling of the case as part of the plenary authority granted to them. On the other hand, the Senate rules expressly provide that the prosecution can perform its task through private lawyers.

Then there is the question on who should make the ruling on a question involving the materiality or relevance of evidence and other matters relating to court procedures. Should it be the Chief Justice who is presumed to be knowledgeable with the law or can the members of the court, at the request of a member, take it upon themselves to rule on it?

There is everything to gain and nothing to lose if both chambers take a close look at their respective rules and see if there are any conflicts to be ironed out, or there are provisions that can be added to speed up the impeachment process.

Worth it

The 24 trial days took a toll on the nation's productivity. Life was practically put on hold from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m., Monday to Friday. The weekend breaks were spent discussing and evaluating the evidence submitted by the prosecution.

If only for raising the level of the people's awareness in the workings of government and the stock market, the impeachment trial was worth the time, money and effort spent.

COMEBACK KID

Capriati stuns Hingis

CAPRIATI: "The moment has finally come." AP

MELBOURNE, Australia—Dazed with disbelief by her improbable achievement, Jennifer Capriati wore a grin broader than the Australian Outback as she hoisted a Grand Slam championship trophy over her head for the first time.

The crowd roared. Her father beamed. Her comeback was complete.

A heavy underdog and a sentimental favorite, Capriati upset top-seeded Martina Hingis 6-4, 6-3 on Saturday to win the Australian Open.

It was the most captivating moment in a tumultuous career for Capriati, the former child prodigy who left the women's tour in the mid-1990s because of drug and personal problems.

"I'm no longer going to doubt myself in anything," she said. "If I can come home with a Grand Slam, now I know anything is possible."

Capriati, 24, entered the tournament seeded 12th and might be the most unlikely women's major champion since the Open era began in 1968. She beat defending champion Lindsay Davenport and four-time champ Monica Seles en route to the final, then outplayed Hingis from the start.

When Capriati closed out the victory by slamming a backhand return winner on the first match point, she hopped up and down, grinned and cried with joy.

"I just couldn't believe it," she said. "I got the chills. I just thought, 'Wow, the moment has finally come. Now I can enjoy it.'"

Capriati shook hands with Hingis, thrust her fists in the air and trotted over to her father and coach, Stefano. He happily rubbed her right arm _ the one that had just delivered a Grand Slam title. Then she went to her changeover chair and phoned her brother, Steven, back home in Florida.

"Who would've thought I would have ever made it here after so much has happened?" Capriati told a supportive center-court crowd during the trophy ceremony. "Dreams do come true if you keep believing in yourself. Anything can happen."

Capriati, whose troubles as a teen-ager made international headlines, was 17 when she dropped off the tour for more than two years following the 1993 U.S. Open. She went five years without winning a Grand Slam match.

But those days were a distant memory Sunday afternoon for Capriati and her family.

"I'm very proud," Stefano Capriati said. "I've always felt proud of Jennifer."

On a gorgeous, cloudless day, Capriati was as perfect as the weather at the outset, racing to a 4-0 lead in just 12 minutes. She slugged boldly from the baseline but was accurate, too, playing 25 points before she hit a shot long.

Her newfound fitness was often evident. She repeatedly ran down Hingis' drop shots, including on the final point of the first set, when she raced forward and bunted a backhand winner into the corner.

The crowd was clearly on Capriati's side, with fans shouting out encouragement to her between points. Stefano Capriati watched nervously from under a red, white and blue USA hat, grinning and shaking his fist when his daughter hit a winner.

For the first time since 1995, the tournament is awarding equal prize money to men and women. Capriati received Australian $830,500 (US $ 473,385) and Hingis earned Australian $415,250 (US $ 236,693).

Said Capriati: "It's going to be a great year." *AP*

President's Cup regatta attracts more backers

THE SPORT of sailing has benefited from the normalization of the political conditions in the country as more sponsors have come in to back the 9th President's Cup Regatta on Feb. 19-24 in Manila Bay and the Nasugbu Bay in Batangas.

Aside from regular annual sponsors Coca Cola and Nestle Phils., organizing committee chairman Ray Ordoveza said that the Philippine Long Distance Telephone (PLDT) and Nokia are now major sponsors of the country's biggest international sailing event, which is expected to attract South East Asian sailors aside from local boat owners.

"We are also awaiting confirmation of their support from San Miguel Beer and Tanduay while the other sponsors are Intex Telecom Systems, 105.9 DWLA, Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Navy, Neil Pryde, and the Department of Tourism, now under Secretary Dick Gordon," said Ordoveza who earlier had already confirmed sponsorships from Batangas resorts Peninsula de Punta Fuego, Maya Maya Yacht Club and the Taal Lake Yacht Club.

This year's regatta will also see the revival of the James L. Gordon, Sr. Trophy to be awarded on the last day of the race.

Ordoveza also confirmed that this early, defending champion Subic Centennial owned by Judes Echauz had already confirmed its participation together with his own Karakoa, Andres Soriano III's Maligaya, and two Hong Kong based yachts, the Intrigue and the Hocux Pocux II with around 15 more entries expected before the February 2 deadline.

Meanwhile, members of the Manila Yacht Club, which is organizing the regatta, had their last chance to shake down their boats and crew in a long race in preparation for the President's Cup with the recent Montemar Race, a night race from Manila Bay to the Batangas resort.

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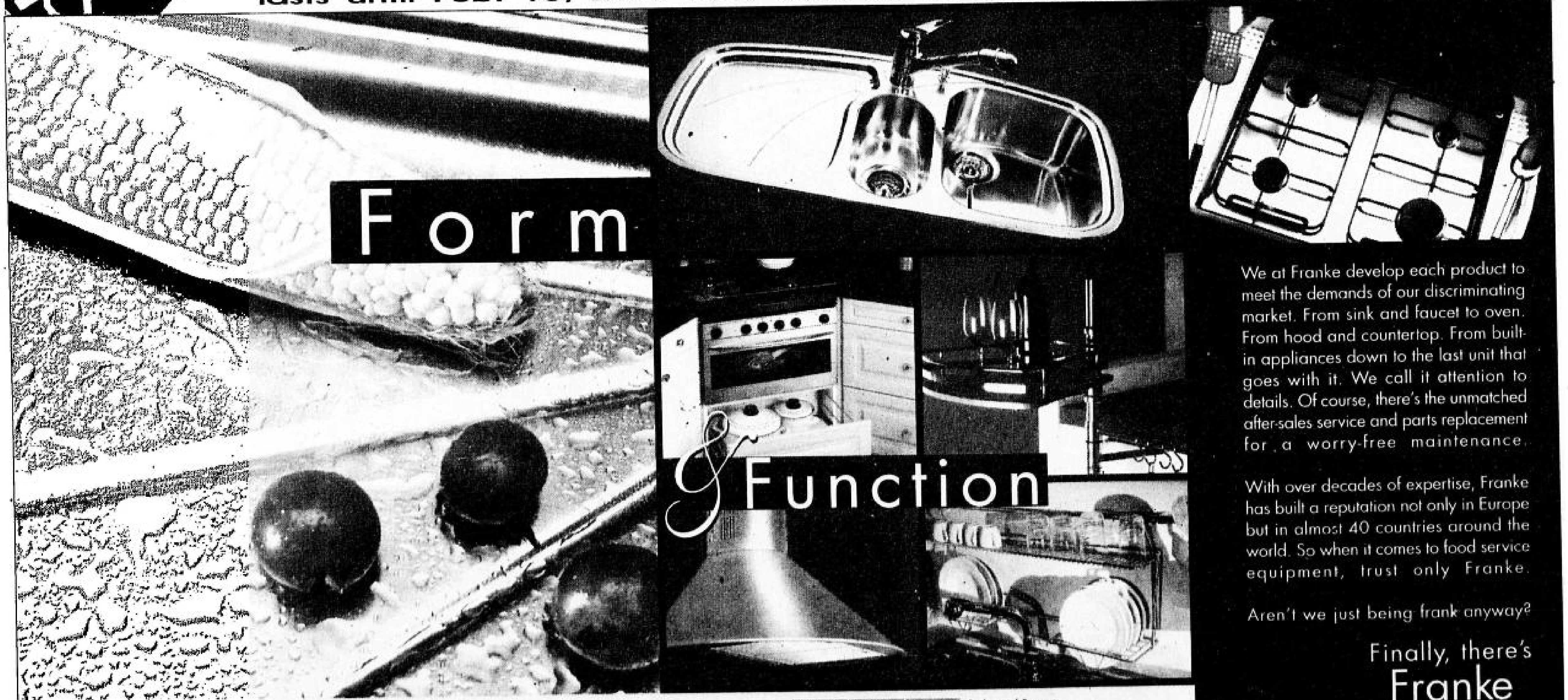

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King in waiting

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I CAN'T understand some people.

Here's Bong Tan of Tanduay playing Rockefeller, if not Hughes, to a player. Look what Bong gets instead.

Brickbats. His generosity being dubbed as ridiculous.

What's ridiculous in securing the future of a man?

Bong Tan should be awarded the Mother Theresa Award for charity.

Danny Ildefonso has no diploma to get him a necktie job in Makati. Nor the "right connect" to even make him a bodyguard of GMA.

Danny Ildefonso has nothing but sturdy knees, spidery arms and a leap of faith. Add this: From head to the ground, he's 6-foot-6. Perfect for basketball in this cage-crazed land of 5-foot-7s.

At 24, Danny Ildefonso is the epitome of everything you want in a basketball player. Gutsy. Spunky. Deadly. I call him Deadly Intruder; DI for short.

For the next 16 years, Danny Ildefonso's basketball existence is Bong Tan's. The price: P96 million. That's P500,000 a month.

And we're talking here only of DI's basic pay. The other perks to the contract could amount to almost P20 million more spread over 192 months.

Bong Tan's move was unprecedented. It could be likened to the deal struck by Jerry West for Los Angeles to nab Lew Alcindor from the Milwaukee Bucks in 1978. It was around Alcindor—who would later be rechristened Kareem Abdul Jabbar—that the Lakers were built. In no time, the Laker dynasty in the NBA was realized in the Eighties behind Jabbar and Magic Johnson.

Like the Jabbar deal, the DI deal would allow San Miguel Beer to get the first-round draft pick of Tanduay for the next three years beginning 2002.

Like the Jabbar deal, the DI deal consigned Ildefonso to a life of Tanduayism. Jabbar retired a Laker. DI, barring unforeseen events, would also retire a Rhum Master.

Why San Miguel would cry foul over Bong Tan's move boggles the mind.

Why Commissioner Jun Bernardino would even think of entertaining San Miguel's plea to review the DI deal is an aberration, to say the least. Jun B should have readily dismissed the plea for lack of basis.

Commissioner Salud, where are you?

The 16-year contract was legal.

The P500,000-a-month salary was legal.

San Miguel had better stop ranting and buckle down to work. Under the rules, SMB's only choice is to either match or bow to Tanduay's offer sheet. Anything lesser than that is foolishness. For the Board of Governors to even give San Miguel's plea a serious thought is a travesty of the PBA's by-laws. The document is the best evidence: Tanduay ain't broke no law.

So, c'mon, fellas. Here's one contract that should be the model of all. For Chrissakes, let's not just embrace it. Let's hail it.

Or have we become hypocrites, if not bigots, as to get so pissed off by the utter generosity residing in the heart of Bong Tan?

I railed away, flailed at Tanduay when it defied the Commissioner's office sometime ago. I hit Tanduay's indiscretion when it asked the court to intrude into the PBA affairs sometime ago.

This time, I must commend Tanduay for its pioneering efforts at sowing the seeds of security for our PBA players.

For at age 40, after he shall have done the last dunk of his cage career, DI would only begin the life of a king.

King of the hill.

PBA All-FILIPINO CUP

Sta. Lucia tests mettle of Alaska in opener

SCHEDULE TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)
4:30 p.m.—Opening ceremonies
6:00 p.m.—Alaska vs Sta. Lucia

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

STA. LUCIA Realty and Alaska Milk kick off the 2001 PBA season when they collide today at the start of the All-Filipino Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

If only for the major revamps these teams have undertaken during the off-season, the lone game, set for 6 p.m., promises to be a fitting beginning for the league's 27th season.

The Realtors, for instance, are parading five new players but have retained their core in Marlou Aquino, Dennis Espino and newly designated court marshal Paolo Mendoza.

The youthful point guard will be filling the shoes of Ronnie Magsanoc who retired unceremoniously during the off-season.

"I believe Paolo has gained maturity the past year and he will be our main man in the backcourt," said SLR coach Norman Black of his sophomore guard.

Magsanoc was cut during the off-season and wasn't signed by any team, effectively ending the career of one of the league's 25 greatest players of all time.

"It's going to be a big shoe to fill in," said Mendoza. "But the opportunity was presented to me and I'm thrilled by it. I don't want to let them down."

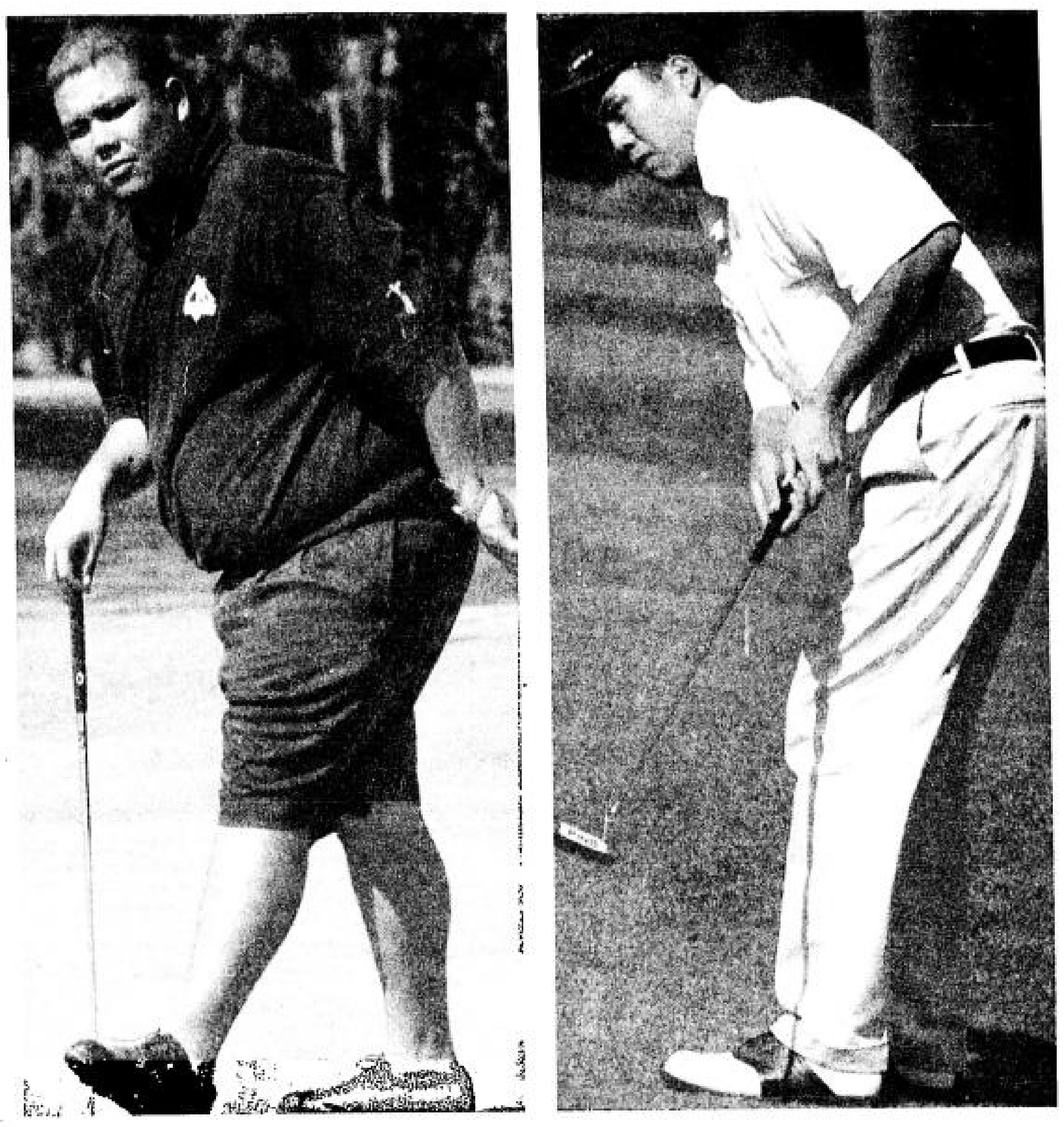
From the looks of it, the 6-foot Mendoza is up to the task especially with his exceptional showing in last year's Commissioner's Cup where the Realtors made the finals for the first time ever.

The good news for SLR fans is that the already deadly alliance among Mendoza, Aquino and Espino will be boosted this season by new faces like Marvin Ortiguerra, Felix Belano, Jercules Tangkay, Francis Adriano and Long David.

The Realtors have long cast off their doormat image with that championship stint last year that somehow rubbed into the unheralded crew like Cris Tan, Richard del Rosario, Gerard Francisco and Mike Orquillas.

But the Aces also have marked changes of their own after disposing of aging players like Bong Hawkins and Johnny Abarrientos in favor of Fil-Ams Ali Peek and Jon Ordonio.

Alaska coach Tim Cone will also have the pleasure of having two touted Fil-Am rookies in John Arigo and Kenny Evans aside from new acquisitions Eric Reyes and Richie Ticzon.



BILL SHAW PERFORMERS JESS YUSON

Gerard Cantada (left) and Cosco Oben, who were world junior champions in the '80s, traded shots again as they were paired in the 12th Bill Shaw tournament Friday and Saturday at Wack Wack. Cantada was the early contender in individual play while Oben, partnered with Anthony Nazareno, was crowding the leaders in team competition in the event that drew nearly 400 entries.

Celtics spoil Kidd's return

BOSTON —Antoine Walker scored 29 points as the Boston

Celtics ruined the return of Jason Kidd with a 99-83 win over the Phoenix Suns on Friday night.

Kidd, who sat out four games after being charged last week with domestic violence assault against his wife, entered the game with 4:14 left in the first quarter and was booed virtually every time he got the ball.

He struggled early but finished with 12 points, eight rebounds and five assists in 30 minutes.

The Celtics continued to thrive since Rick Pitino resigned as coach. They are 5-4 under interim coach Jim O'Brien.

Paul Pierce added 28 points for Boston and Walker had 13 rebounds. The Suns, 1-4 in their last five games, were led by Cliff Robinson with 22 points and Shawn Marion with 14 points and 10 rebounds.

Boston took control midway through the third quarter as Walker's jumper began a 12-0 run that made the score 66-53 with 2:20 left in the period.

The closest the Suns came after that was 87-80 on a layup by Kidd with 2:58 to go in the game.

76ers 105, Pistons 89

In Philadelphia, Allen Iverson scored 44 points and George Lynch added 14 points and 13 rebounds as the Philadelphia 76ers beat the Detroit Pistons 105-89 Friday night.

Philadelphia has won 15 of 17 to improve the NBA's best record to 33-10. The Pistons have lost 13 of 15.

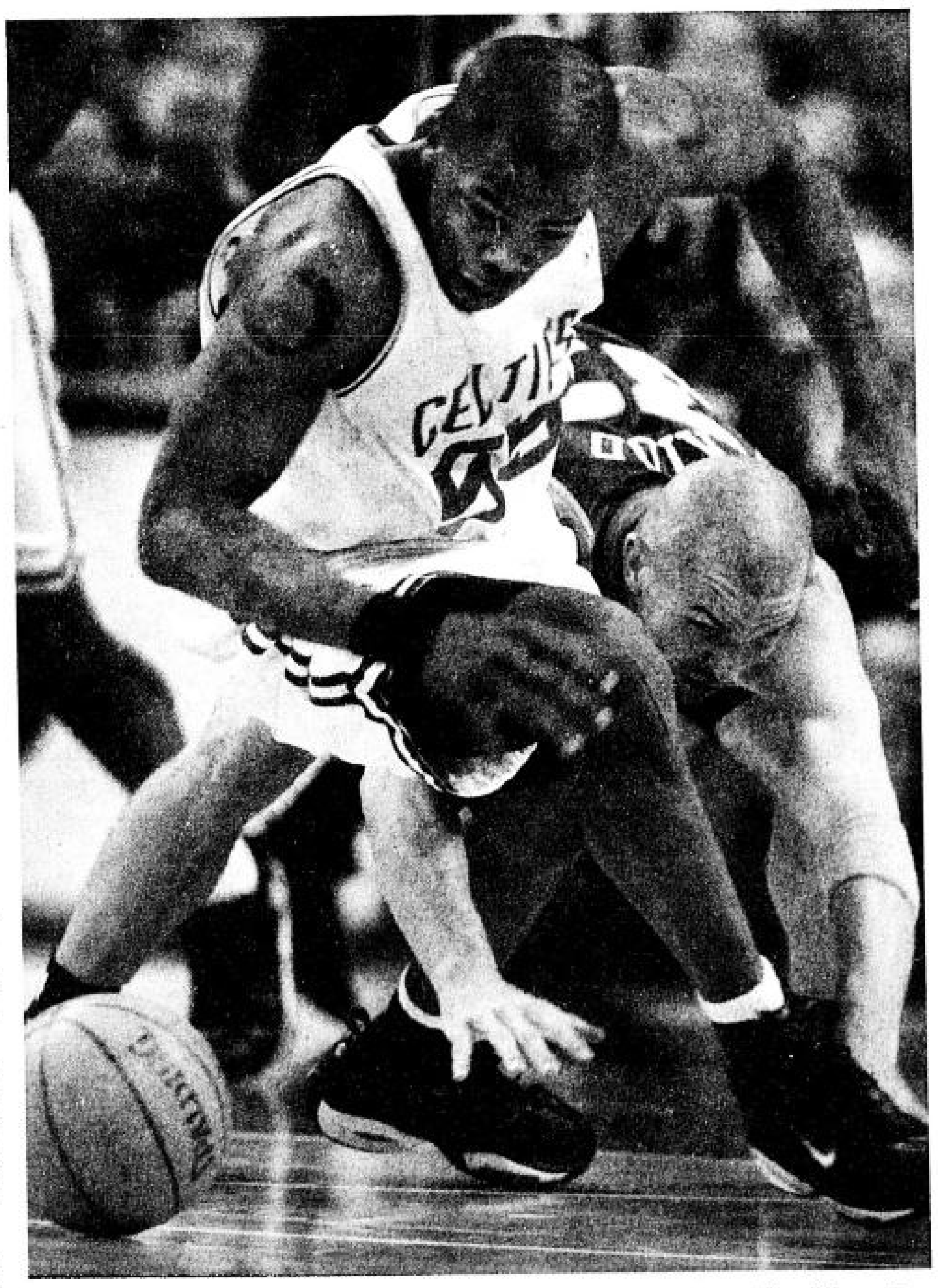
Jerry Stackhouse scored 34 points on 12-for-32 shooting and Joe Smith added 15 for Detroit. Stackhouse, the NBA's leading scorer at 30.0 points per game, was traded from Philadelphia to Detroit for Ratliff and McKie in December 1997 because he didn't fit in with Iverson on the court.

Meanwhile, Chucky Brown recently tied an NBA record by signing with the Golden State Warriors, his 11th team.

Brown has also played for Cleveland, the Lakers, New Jersey, Dallas, Houston, Phoenix, Milwaukee, Atlanta and San Antonio along with two stints in Charlotte. *AP*

Complete results

Philadelphia 105, Detroit 89; Boston 99, Phoenix 83; Washington 106, Atlanta 99; Houston 106, Vancouver 89; Seattle 107, Golden State 105; LA Lakers 113, New Jersey 101. *AP*



BOSTON forward Eric Williams (left) chases the ball after knocking it from the hands of Kidd. AP

Tiger's PGA streak ends

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona—Strange things keep happening at The Phoenix Open, like Mark Calcavecchia shooting a 60, Tiger Woods failing to reach par and Ernie Els, Phil Mickelson and David Duval on the brink of missing the cut.

Calcavecchia carded the 16th 60 or better in PGA Tour history on Friday, his 11-under effort coming after a 60 minute frost delay and hours before the second round was suspended by darkness.

A bizarre sequence of events began Thursday as Magee banked his drive at the 332-yard 17th hole off Tom Byrum's putter and in the hole for what is believed to be the first par-four double-eagle in tour history.

The craziness continued on Friday as Calcavecchia made history, good friend Woods had a PGA Tour record halted and Els, Duval and Mickelson dubiously distinguished themselves.

Calcavecchia followed a 65 with the best round of his 21-year career to reach 17-under 125 and build a nice lead over first-round co-leader Scott Verplank.

Woods, on the other hand, had his tour record of consecutive rounds at par or better snapped at 53 while falling 13 shots off the lead. *AFP*

Pacquiao defense set Feb. 17

WORLD Boxing Council (WBC) international superbantamweight champion Manny Pacquiao will return at the Ynares Center for his forthcoming defense against Japanese-born slugger Tetsutora Senrima on Feb. 17.

Pacquiao's defense was announced by Rizal Gov. Casimiro Ynares and international boxing promoter Gabriel "Bebot" Elorde Jr.

It will be the fourth title defense of Pacquiao, who last defeated former world champion and fellow Filipino Reynante at the Elorde Sports Center.

Pacquiao boasts of 32 fights, with 30 wins (21 knockouts) and two losses. Senrima sports a record of 19-4-3 with 10 knockouts.

PACQUIAO

SENRIMA

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

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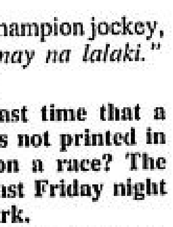
Race 2—1. Sweet Lover 2. Heavenly 3. Foreign Exchange 4. Water Polo 5. Lorna
Race 3—1. Harry's Up 2. Power Drive 3. Golden Eagle
Race 4—1. Houdini 2. Black Force 3. Lovely Luigi 4. Fortune Maker 5. Cubano
Race 5—1. Favorite Trick 2. Gimme A Ring 3. Top Mark
Race 6—1. Shower of Stars 2. Great Year 3. Quest for Victory 4. Dynamite Miss 5. Mardi Gras
Race 7—1. Rikitik 2. Green Buck 3. Adrenalin 4. Brazen Truth 5. Anahaw
Race 8—1. Gold Edition 2. High Roller 3. Gallant Quest 4. Bound to Be
Race 9—1. Jackpot Baby 2. Running Indy 3. Jean Pierre 4. Golden Rose 5. Exchange Deal
Race 10—1. Master Ijhay 2. Bullhorn 3. Flirting Hero
Race 11—1. Baby My Beloved 2. Mrs. Big 3. Arrogante 4. Aurora Borealis 5. Heir Apparent
Race 12—1. Halifax 2. Globe Master 3. Touch of Luck 4. Gossip Column 5. Passionately
Race 13—1. Penlace 2. Suterian Era 3. Hideaway 4. Much Obliged 5. All the Aces
Race 14—1. Silver Gray 2. Glory Be 3. Slew's Ecstasy 4. Dr. Jones
Race 15—1. Harvest Green 2. Two Thumbs Up 3. Free Radical 4. Au Rapid 5. Quest for Gold

Of real men and War General

ONE WINNER



Edwin Villanueva

"THEY are magnanimous. *Mga tunay na lalaki* (They are real men)."

Those words came just a few days back from newly appointed PNP boss Gen. Leandro Mendoza.

And he was referring to Ping Lacson's six top men (Zubia, Canson, the Acop brothers, De la Cruz and Batac) who voluntarily sought their relief to pave the way for the reorganization of the police force.

When Gloria Macapagal Arroyo assumed the presidency, everyone expected those Estrada-appointed government officials to tender their courtesy resignations.

Included in this long lineup of people are those at the Philippine Racing Commission, which has since lost trust of the local racing sector ever since Estrada people came to handle it.

When we heeded the *bayang kareristas'* call to be an instrument to ask those people to step down, we got some positive response.

A day after we came out with our first issue for the year last week, we got reports that commissioner Pocholo Romualdez has already offered to resign. Of late, we heard that Bobok Domingo also did the right thing.

As for the others, we still haven't got words as to what their move was.

To borrow Gen. Mendoza's words, Romualdez, also a well-respected newspaperman, and Domingo, a former champion jockey, are indeed *"mga tunay na lalaki."*

* * *

When was the last time that a horse whose name is not printed in the Dividendazo won a race? The answer is Jan. 26, last Friday night at the Santa Ana Park.

Kareristas **who were there and many others who milled at the various off-track betting stations got the shock of their lives when War General won Race 8.**

War General's name was not listed in the Dividendazo as an entry in that race, forcing Santa Ana officials to frantically announce that the horse was indeed running in that race as entry No. 11.

All those who were advised earlier and heard the announcements were able to make the necessary adjustments in their betting choices. But those who didn't ended up cursing whoever was the culprit behind it.

That War General slip-up was not the only incident which made racing at Santa Ana last Friday night a very "memorable" one.

In Race 10, outstanding favorite Sparkling Sky lost to a ***dehado*****, Kay Rufina, igniting howls of protest from racing fans.**

But racecaster Andy Sevilla told us that Sparkling Sky bled after the race and that the horse, according to a source, was allowed to run despite its "poor condition."

Prior to Friday's race, Sparkling Sky triumphed impressively at Santa Ana last Jan. 14, exactly nine days after the very same horse lost to Divine Magic, also as a heavy favorite, at San Lazaro last Jan. 5.

To those who were not lucky enough two days ago, there's still a chance to pull through. And that could be it today, also at Santa Ana. See you all there!

Sunday SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Junior tilt on 'Golf Power'

GOLF Power features today the highlights of the 4th Philippine International Junior Golf Championships held last week at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club. Now on its fifth year, the show is aired every Sunday, 3 p.m. on IBC-13. Host is Philippine Sportswriters Association major awardee for amateur golf Gerard Cantada.

Court rejects OJ appeal

LOS ANGELES—A state appeals court has rejected O.J. Simpson's appeal of the $33.5 million civil court judgment against him for the killings of his ex-wife and her friend. A three-judge panel of the 2nd District Court of Appeal issued its ruling Friday after Simpson's attorney argued last month that the trial judge erred in rulings on evidence, in denying a mistrial and because damages were excessive. *AP*

Laguna keeps 'Pinoy' crown

By June Navarro

STA. CRUZ, Laguna—Laguna turned the second edition of the Batang Pinoy National Championships into a bore, walking away with the overall title devoid of the drama expected at the close of the games at the San Luis RECS Village here.

The hosts vanquished the opposition, hauling majority of the medals at stake, the bulk of which came from swimming (10), cycling (7) and athletics (6).

Laguna reasserted its mastery of the meet after tallying 23 gold, 17 silver and 26 bronze medals at the end of competitions, almost twice the total of medals it copped (18-20-9) during the games' initial staging in Bacolod two years ago.

As champion, the province of Laguna will receive P300,000 worth of sports equipment aside from scholarship programs granted to outstanding athletes.

Sprinter Aiza Cometa, the most bemedalled athlete with five golds, is expected to line her pockets with P25,000 from the local government of Laguna and a scholarship grant from the Philippine Sports Commission.

Muntinlupa assumed the bridesmaid role as Negros Occidental, runner-up in the Bacolod meet, simply faded out of the race.

Muntinlupa, which will receive P200,000 worth of sports equipment, finished with a 26-12-15 medal tally, thanks to its 13-gold medal onslaught in gymnastics.

Tankers Lambert Guiriba and Bea Del Mundo, both triple gold medallists, helped Manila seize third place with an 11-6-7 medal haul. Manila will be given P100,000 worth of sports equipment.

Earlier, Cebu City made a last-ditch effort of barging into the top four but failed after one of its two finalists in boxing fell short of expectations.

Slugger Jonard Villanueva of Cebu lost to South Cotabato's Neil Elbanbuena in the lightpowder category while provincemate Alex Banal outpointed Jun Ray del Puerto of Misamis Oriental in the powder weight.

Thus, Quezon City snared fourth place honors with a 9-gold, 4-silver and 8-bronze medal tally. Cebu skidded to sixth place with 8 golds, 15 silvers and 12 bronzes, a notch lower than Zamboanga City (9-4-7).

Misamis Oriental, mentored by 1998 Asian Games gold medalist Roberto Jalnais, became the overall titlist in boxing with Alberto Yap as the tourney's best boxer.

A young lass from Makati City also became the fifth swimmer to land three golds, joining Ronald Papa of Malabon, Henrico Jose of Albay, Guiriba and Del Mundo.

Carla Gonzales, a Grade 1 student from Assumption College, captured the 50-meter backstroke and 100m-freestyle titles in the girls' six and under categroy. Her 48.37 clocking in breaststroke eclipsed the old mark of Cebu's Paula Abigail Vega (57.72).

Despite protests in swimming, football, gymnastics and volleyball, the sporting conclave, which gathered more than 5,000 children across the nation, just rolled with the punches.

In fact, talks are already rife about a third version of the games as Ilocos Norte sports director Michael Keon expressed willingness to host the Batang Pinoy Games sometime in December.

"Laguna has a great sporting program. I hope to bring these programs to Ilocos," said Keon, who heaped praises on Laguna Gov. Joey Lina. Keon's team went home with a lone gold in little league baseball.

Meanwhile, tension filled the air in karatedo when ousted Philippine Karatedo Federation chief Pocholo Veguillas and former Philippine Olympic Committee president Cristy Ramos broke into the meeting of PKF officials at the Sta. Cruz Elementary School here.

Shark spanks Welcoat, 59-49

SHARK Energy Drink registered an ego-boosting 59-49 win over fellow finalist Welcoat Paints in the penultimate day of the PBL Challenge Cup semifinals at the Makati Coliseum.

Slippery Michael Robinson, Egay Echavez and Roger Yap sizzled against the Paintmasters which saw their 10-game winning streak broken yesterday.

Shark improved its mark to 12-2 even as the win finally snapped its five-game losing record to Welcoat dating back to the Chairman's Cup.

Coach Junel Baculi opted to test new combinations and Welcoat's offense was so anemic that enforcer Rene Suba topscored with eight points.

MVP pacesetter Ren Ren Ritualo fired six points, while the usually prolific Jojo Manalo scored nothing. Yancy de Ocampo was outshone by counterpart Ryzal Castro in the middle.

Game One of the best-of-seven championship series is set on Thursday with the Energy Drink Kings eyeing to erase the stigma of their 0-4 loss to the Paintmasters in the Chairman's Cup.

Earlier, Blu Sun Power routed Hapee Toothpaste, 77-60.

Dennis Eroa

Scores:

BLU SUN POWER 77—Bacani 14, De la Cuesta 10, Legaspi 9, Billones 9, Kalaw 8, Canoza 8, Sanz 8, Crisostomo 4, Bona 3, David 2, Calo 2, Marasigan 0, Daliva 0.

HAPEE 60—Espiritu 18, Baguio 8, Lopez 6, Bajar 6, Olaguer 6, Dy 5, Saquilayan 5, Mercado 3, Norrdell 3, Sison 0, Alabanza 0.

Quarters:27-19,44-26,61-48,77-60

Second Game

SHARK 59—Robinson 13, Yap 10, Castro 7, Echavez 7, Limare 6, Velez 6, Malabanan 3, Tolomia 3, Ybañez 2, Ortega 2, Salvador 0, Rodriguez 0, Sotto 0.

WELCOAT 49-Suba 8, Villoria 6, Ritualo 6, De Ocampo 5, Zamora 4, Go 4, Canlas 4, Cruz 4, Sison 2, Orfrecio 2, Reyes 2, Pamintuan 2, Tan 0, Manalo 0, Patrimonio 0.

Quarters:17-11,28-21,44-38,59-49

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

TENNIS: Australian Open, Men's Finals at 11 a.m. (r – 6 p.m.) on Sky Cable 17

BASKETBALL: NBA Inside Stuff at 7:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

US NCAA - Duke Blue Devils vs Maryland Terrapins at 9 a.m. on ESPN

GOLF: PGA Phoenix Open, Day Three at 1 p.m. (d) on Star Sports

Golfglobe 2001 at 5:30 p.m. on Star Sports

The PGA Tour Championship Highlights at 6:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

PGA Grand Slam of Golf 2000, Day One at midnight (r) on Star Sports

BOXING: Great Fights of the Mid 1930s at 12:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: Super Bowl XXXIII Highlights – Denver Broncos vs Atlanta Falcons at 8 a.m. (r) and Super Bowl XXXIV Highlights - Tennessee Titans vs St. Louis Rams Highlights at 4 p.m. on ESPN

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LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Solon dares NBI head to solve Dacer case A22

3 officers relieved for escape of 10 A22

Jinggoy feeling 'useless'; quits League

By Blanche S. Rivera

FEELING "useless" after the ouster of his father from the presidency last week, San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada has resigned as president of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines.

But the LMP board has not accepted the resignation of the young Estrada, who submitted it on Jan. 21, a day after his family was evicted from the Malacañang Palace following a three-day popular revolt.

The San Juan mayor is the eldest son of former President Joseph Estrada by his legitimate wife Loi Ejercito.

Jinggoy, who is in his third term as mayor of San Juan, said "majority" of the LMP's 1,540 members still wanted him to stay even after he expressed his desire to vacate the LMP's top post.

"I already resigned, but they didn't want me to," Jinggoy told reporters in a

JINGGOY/ A22

Manila cops want PAOCTF disbanded

By Jerome Aning

A MANILA police association of about 3,000 non-commissioned officers wants the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force abolished for causing demoralization and divisiveness in the Philippine National Police.

"There is a general clamor among the police rank and file for PAOCTF to be disbanded for good because it has caused so much demoralization within the PNP," the Manila's Finest Brotherhood Association Inc. said in a press statement.

The association's president, SPO4 Wilson Tibor, yesterday told reporters that President Macapagal should seriously consider disbanding the PAOCTF, which was created by ousted President Estrada,

MANILA/ A22

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—MFBAI—
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THROUGH the glass door clearly shows the sentiments of Manila's Finest about the new and the former chiefs of the Philippine National Police. RANDY HORMILLOSA

Caloocan politicians in text war

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE NUISANCE power of text messaging has invaded politics in Caloocan City, where feuding officials have turned to this popular mode of communications to transmit their messages, even nasty ones, to their political enemies.

Vice Mayor Oscar Malapitan on Friday accused his bitter political foe, Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo, of sending him scathing text messages in his cell phone as soon as President Estrada was ousted last Saturday.

A congressional aspirant and member of Estrada's Partido ng Masang Pilipino, Malapitan claimed that last Sunday, he received at least four "insulting" text messages, which all registered the cell phone number of Malonzo.

Malapitan said one of the text messages read, "*Kahit Presidente kaya kong karmahin, ikaw pa kaya* (I can wish the President ill luck so I can do the same to you)."

He said Malonzo was bragging how he and other anti-Estrada groups managed to topple the former president.

Malapitan sent Malonzo his own text message: "*Subukan mo. Masyado kang mayabang, hambog!* (Try it. You're too arrogant!)"

Malapitan said Malonzo promptly answered

CALOOCAN/ A22

PINOY Times
SPECIAL EDITION #15
SIX PESOS ONLY
HALA BIRA, Pangulong Gloria!
WAGI AT TSUGI
Sino-sino ang mapapasa-Gloria at sino-sino ang pupulutin sa kangkungan?

Exclusive interview

PINOY Times Special Edition lives on, this time with an issue (No. 15) containing an exclusive interview with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and another with Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste.

In the same issue are profiles on some of the cronies of ex-President Estrada and an attempt to answer the question of who really is the hero of Edsa 2.

The issue is now on sale all over the country. Copies of back issues are still available at Pinoy Times offices, which can be reached at 912-98-22 and 912-97-22.

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Sony Life

Ex-'That's' star accused of throwing weight around as new Naia GM's aide

BARELY has the new general manager of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport warmed his seat when one of his aides, Insp. Jovit Moya, was accused of throwing his weight around.

Moya was a former cast member of the defunct television variety show "That's Entertainment."

Moya allegedly berated two security guards for stopping the vehicle of new Naia general manager Edgardo Manda at the entrance of the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) on Wednesday morning.

The guards alleged that Moya threatened to run them over if the incident was repeated.

One of the guards, Gerald Tanieza, said Moya immediately alighted from a Mitsubishi Strada and started scolding them after they flagged down the vehicle for routine inspection at about 7 a.m. Wednesday.

"He told us never to stop their vehicle again because this belonged to GM Manda," Tanieza said in a report to their security agency chief. "(Moya) also reminded us to jot down the vehicle's plate number to make sure we don't commit the same mistake."

The other guard, identified only as Limor, tried to explain to Moya that they had to inspect every incoming vehicle in compliance with the memorandum order of former MIAA general manager Antonio Gana.

But Moya cut him short, saying the "memo is no longer in effect because there's a new general manager."

Before boarding his vehicle, Moya also allegedly threatened to run over the guards if they ever stopped his vehicle again.

The incident happened a day after Manda took over the post of general manager from Gana.

"*Trabaho lang* (I'm just doing my job)," Moya said when asked to comment about the incident.

Manda, whose own assumption was marred by controversy, has ordered an investigation of the incident.

"I'm addressing the problem," Manda told reporters.

Only days ago, Chief Supt. Florencio Fianza was also accused of throwing his weight around at the airport when he went there before dawn two Saturdays ago and allegedly told officials that he had been designated coordinator by the Macapagal administration.

Fianza, a former traffic czar, later denied this. *TJ Burgonio*

Councilor slams dismissal of mayor's graft case

By Christian V. Esguerra

A MALABON opposition councilor denounced an official of the Office of the Ombudsman for allegedly dismissing a motion to suspend Mayor Amado Vicencio who reportedly approved a bogus deal for the construction of a new town hall.

Councilor Edilberto Torres said he would urge the Ombudsman to investigate Edgardo Geraldez, graft investigation officer II, for dropping the motion without allegedly citing any reasons.

"We want him to be investigated," Torres said. "He should inhibit himself from trying the case. It's obvious that the case against Vicencio has been cooked."

Geraldez could not be reached for comment.

Torres pointed out that Geraldez could not just express an "oral" decision on the crucial motion to suspend Vicencio while there is an ongoing investigation over the alleged spurious deal the mayor made for the construction of a new P122-million town hall.

"(Geraldez's) decision should have been approved by higher authorities," Torres said. "He cannot just make a decision without explaining it."

When lawyer Edna Batacan asked Geraldez to explain how he arrived at the controversial decision, the graft officer reportedly remarked: "Do I have to give you a reason?"

Because of Geraldez's response, Torres and Councilor Chiqui Roque, both of whom filed the graft case against Vicencio, assumed that the graft officer "was in favor of the mayor."

The INQUIRER tried to get in touch with Vicencio but he was unavailable. His public information officer, Abby Balatlat, refused to give any statement.

Torres and Roque filed criminal and administrative charges against Vicencio before the Ombudsman for allegedly granting the multimillion-peso contract for the construction of a new town hall to Serg Construction, even though Sergcon Development Corp. pre-qualified for the contract.

The supposed discrepancy is only one of many surrounding the construction deal.

The councilors also accused the local government of trying to suppress evidence which could prove that the mayor had allegedly entered into an irregular contract. Vicencio has consistently denied the allegations and vowed to answer the charges in the proper forum.

Rookie cop loses gun, cash to Malate robbers

A ROOKIE policeman was robbed of his service firearm and personal valuables by three armed men while he waited for a jeepney ride in Malate, Manila.

PO2 Dindo Dugan, 28, single, assigned to the National Capital Regional Police Office, was in his uniform when robbed late Sunday night, police said.

Senior Insp. Eduardo Cruz, head of the Western Police District theft and robbery section, said the holdup took place while Dugan was standing at the corner of Taft and Pablo Ocampo avenues where he waited for a ride to the NCRPO office in Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig.

The three men, armed with two handguns and a dagger, took Dugan's caliber .9mm Beretta pistol. One also took his wallet containing P1,000, his police ID, and his savings and loans membership card, investigators said.

The holdup men fled toward Pasay City.

Investigators said Dugan had just left the Don Chino Roces (formerly Mendiola) Bridge near Malacañang, where he was detailed to help maintain peace and order. *Jerome Aning*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, January 28, 2001
4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **Jer 1:4-5, 17-19**

A word of Yahweh came to me, "Even before I formed you in the womb I have known you; even before you were born I had set you apart, and appointed you a prophet to the nations.

Get ready for action; stand up and say to them all that I command you. Be not scared of them or I will scare you in their presence.

See, I will make you a fortified city, a pillar of iron with walls of bronze, against all the nations, against the kings and princes of Judah, against the priests and the people of the land. They will fight against you but shall not overcome you, for I am with you to rescue you—it is Yahweh who speaks."

2nd Reading: **1 Cor 12:31—13:13**

Set your hearts on the most precious gifts, and I will show you a much better way.

If I could speak all the human and angelic tongues, but had no love, I would only be sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. If I had prophecy, knowing secret things with all kinds of knowledge, and had faith great enough to remove mountains, but had no love, I would be nothing. If I gave everything I had to the poor, and even gave up my own body, but only to receive praise and not through love, it would be of no value to me.

Love is patient, kind, without envy. It is not boastful or arrogant. It is not ill-mannered nor does it seek its own interest. Love overcomes anger and forgets offenses. It does not take delight in wrong, but rejoices in truth. Love excuses everything, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love will never end. Prophecies may cease, tongues be silent and knowledge disappear. For knowledge grasps something of the truth and prophecy as well. And when what is perfect comes, everything imperfect will pass away. When I was a child I thought and reasoned like a child, but when I grew up, I gave up childish ways. Likewise, at present we see dimly as in a faulty mirror, but then it shall be face to face. Now we know in part, but then I will know as I am known. Now we have faith, hope and love, these three, but the greatest of these is love.

Gospel: **Lk 4:21-30**

Jesus began to speak in the synagogue, "Today these prophetic words come true even as you listen."

All agreed with him and were lost in wonder, while he kept on speaking of the grace of God. Nevertheless they asked, "Who is this but Joseph's son?" So he said, "Doubtless you will quote me the saying: Doctor, heal yourself! Do here in your town what they say you did in Capernaum."

Jesus added, "No prophet is honored in his own country. Truly, I say to you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens withheld rain for three years and six months and a great famine came over the whole land. Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow of Zarephath, in the country of Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha, the prophet, and no one was healed except Naaman, the Syrian."

On hearing these words, the whole assembly became indignant. They rose up and brought him out of the town, to the edge of the hill on which Nazareth is built, intending to throw him down the cliff. But he passed through their midst and went his way.

Commentary:

The most common stereotype of a savior is that of a superhero with superpowers, who defeats his enemies with a little blow, who drops from out of the blue whenever needed, and who does not get hurt like the rest of us. It was this same stereotype image of the messiah which made it hard for Jesus' compatriots to accept him at all as the "anointed one of the Spirit" he had just spoken about in the synagogue. A messiah who is weak and vulnerable like them was simply too much for them to accept. Unfortunately, there was no way at all the messiah could be revealed to them unless they could first accept him to be one of them, one who could suffer and die like them.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

LEGAL MEDICINE—Medical malpractice—Petitioner's action is for medical malpractice. This is a particular form of negligence which consists in the failure of a physician or surgeon to apply to his practice of medicine that degree of care and skill which is ordinarily employed by the profession generally, under similar conditions, and in like surrounding circumstances. In order to successfully pursue such a claim, a patient must prove that the physician or surgeon either failed to do something, which a reasonable prudent physician or surgeon would have done, or that he or she did something that a reasonably prudent physician or surgeon would not have done, and that the failure or action caused injury to the patient. There are thus four elements involved in medical negligence cases, namely: duty, breach, injury and proximate causation. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Mendoza, Second Division, Reyes. V. Sisters of Mercy Hospital, G.R. No. 130547, October 3, 2000].

Digest by R.B. Vera

3 officers relieved for escape of ten

By Jerome Aning

THE COMMANDER of the police station in Binondo, Manila and two of his subordinates were relieved of their duties after 10 inmates escaped from the station's detention cell before dawn Friday.

Supt. Juanito de Guzman was relieved as head of Western Police District Station 11 by the WPD director, Chief Supt. Avelino Razon Jr., who placed him on floating status and ordered the filing of administrative charges against him.

Razon also relieved platoon commander Insp. Alfredo Opriasa and night-shift duty desk officer SPO4 Romeo Romero.

The detainees slipped out of their cell after bending the cell bars, probably using a metal bar, between 1:30 and 3:30 a.m., when Romero reportedly left his post.

The inmates then escaped from the station compound on Meisic Street by climbing out of the window and scaling a wall.

Chief Insp. Edgardo Wycoco, who replaced De Guzman, said two of the inmates, Dennis Corpin and Nazareno Carcinas, were re-arrested around noon, one at the Parola Compound in Tondo and the other on Escolta Street in Sta. Cruz.

Still at large are Virgilio Apable, Marvin Bondoc, Ernesto Cervito, Francisco Laurente, Dan Logo, Bartolome Rosaro, Raul Samapo and Dexter Yanes.

The 10 were facing criminal charges such as theft, robbery-snatching and possession of deadly weapons.

Razon said the jailbreak went undetected because no one was guarding the detention cell at that time.

BACK behind bars are two of the inmates who escaped, after they are rearrested in Tondo and Sta. Cruz, Manila. RANDY HORMILLOSA

Businessman shot dead in Quiapo

A FILIPINO Chinese trader was killed while his companion was seriously wounded when two unidentified men shot them in Quiapo, Manila Thursday night.

Eddy Dee, 47, married, of Juan Luna Street, Binondo, Manila, was shot in the chest and died on the way to the University of Santo Tomas Hospital.

PO3 Anthony Galang of the city police's homicide section said Dee and his friend Stanley Ngo, 38, of Gelinos Street, Sta. Cruz, were walking on the Raon overpass in Quiapo when they were shot at about 8:30 p.m.

As the two men were going down the overpass near Gonzalo Puyat Street, they were accosted by the two men, one of whom was armed.

PO3 Galang said Dee tried to grab the gun but it went off. Ngo tried to flee but the suspects chased and shot him in the shoulder and leg.

Investigators believed it was a botched holdup attempt.

Witnesses told police the two men had been tailing Dee and Ngo for some distance before the shooting. *Jerome Aning*

Jinggoy feeling . . .

(From page A21)

meeting in San Juan earlier this week. "I feel that I'm a useless leader now (that my father is no longer president)."

He said that as LMP president and the son of the president of the Republic, he would always be approached by his members to "ask for help" for major projects in their municipalities that would need support from the national government.

Apparently, his ties with Malacañang helped facilitate the release of much-needed funds for the implementation of programs in the municipal level.

But that is expected to change now that the nation has installed President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, former vice president and a leader of the United Opposition against Estrada.

"I don't have connections anymore," Jinggoy admitted, adding the "clout" he once had went down with his father, who is facing plunder and bribery charges before the Office of the Ombudsman.

The LMP is set to meet on Feb. 1 to discuss, among others, whether to accept the resignation of the young Estrada, who is still technically the LMP head.

Jinggoy has facilitated the approval of a P1.54-billion cost sharing program between the LMP and the Department of Public Works and Highways for the construction and repair of major roads in the country's municipalities during his father's presidency.

Two years ago, he also distributed 30 police patrol cars and 100 ambulance units among LMP members, a move that was widely criticized. The ambulance units bore the former President's name and face.

The San Juan mayor was even called to the Senate blue ribbon committee, along with his mother, for allegedly using the funds of the Philippine Charity sweepstakes Office to sponsor LMP activities such as sports tournaments and other fund-raising events. The former first family was cleared in the investigation of their alleged misuse of the PCSO funds, but the PCSO has imposed more stringent measures governing requests from Malacañang.

The Inquirer tried to contact Jinggoy yesterday but all his mobile phones were turned off reportedly because of the many nasty text messages, including death threats, he has been receiving.

He has refused to disclose his political plans but he earlier confirmed that he would seek a congressional seat and support his half-brother JV Ejercito, who is planning to run for mayor of San Juan.

The Ejercitos have ruled San Juan for the past 30 years, starting in the '60s when Joseph Estrada was first elected mayor.

CYNTHIA'S MISSION
Cynthia Villar, wife of former Speaker Manny Villar, distributes free dental kits to children in Barangay Sta. Rita, Talon, Las Piñas as part of her "Ngiting Maganda" mission.

Islamic groups support Loren

ISLAMIC associations yesterday expressed their all-out support for Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste as a nominee for the vice presidency.

In a statement, the Islamic groups said Legarda's "unblemished political record" since she was elected to the Senate in 1998 makes her most qualified to be the vice president.

They said their endorsement was based on Legarda's victory in the 1998 senatorial election, where she earned more than 15 million votes, even higher than what former President Joseph Estrada got.

They said they also considered Legarda's stint as a senator championing environmental causes and women's and children's rights.

The endorsement was made by Taha M. Basman, secretary general of the Philippine Islamic Council; Aleema Amiruddin Sarangani, president of Ummah Party, said to be the biggest Islamic religious-political party in the country; Alim Ali Basher, president of Ittihadul Mashaikh, a national organization of sheiks; and Sultan Monsing Macabando, chair of Marawi Sultanate League.

"Legarda is viewed by many as the embodiment of the Filipino youth's hopes and aspirations," their statement said. "The young consisted the majority of those who participated in the Edsa People Power 2."

Three other groups of people from Antique province also urged President Macapagal to seriously consider Legarda as her vice president.

Legarda's roots are in Antique. The family of her late mother Bessie Legarda is from the town of Pandan.

The Antique groups are Pagtatap (Pagtiriripon Tang mga Taga-Pandan), led by Dr. Bob Alojipan; the Pandan, Antique Foundation based in the United States, with Dr. Cesar Dioso Candari as chair; and the Antiqueño International Foundation, led by lawyer Jonnette Borres, member of the board of trustees.

Caloocan . . .

(From page A21)

with another rude message: "*Minalas si Erap dahil salbahe. Ikaw din tiyak mamalasin dahil pareho kayo* (Estrada had bad luck because he was bad. You will suffer the same fate because you're like him)."

Malapitan said he refused to respond to Malonzo from then on, but claimed the mayor continued to send him outrageous messages, like "You may resign now," and "*Kay* Gigi *pa lang lampaso na kayo, gumamit pa ng* pillbox *mga bata mo(ng) mga bakla* (You're a goner even with Gigi and your aides even used pillbox. You're all fags)."

Malapitan said he could not make sense of the last message, which apparently alluded to the mayor's wife, Gigi Emnace.

Instead of resorting to text messages, Malapitan advised Malonzo to shape up, do his job and rid the city of its garbage. He also suggested that Malonzo should now focus on his campaign "because he's very unpopular these days."

The INQUIRER tried to contact Malonzo through his office phone numbers, but a female employee in his office said the mayor was in a meeting in Malacañang. His cell phone was "unattended."

Manila . . .

(From page A21)

for involvement in several controversial operations that had tainted the image of the PNP.

The task force is composed of police personnel drawn from the defunct Presidential Anti-Crime Commission, which Estrada headed when he was still vice president.

"The PAOCTF has not only brought demoralization among lowly policemen and junior officers in the country, but had been a tool of some politicians to satisfy their caprices and whims," Tibor said.

"When the task force was created, it was as if we were slapped in the face by its officers (because) we very well know that we can do the job they have been doing," he added.

The association said that although it fully supports the leadership of the new PNP head, Deputy Director General Leandro Mendoza, the latter should have recommended the deactivation of the PAOCTF to Ms Macapagal as soon as he assumed office.

Tibor said the PAOCTF's functions merely overlapped those of other police agencies.

He added the PAOCTF's P500-million budget last year could have been distributed to police regional offices in the country and put to good use.

Chief Supt. Romeo Maganto has also asked Ms Macapagal and Mendoza to disband the task force.

Maganto, head of the Task Force Katapat of the Department of Interior and Local Government and president of an association of policemen who were not graduates of the Philippine Military Academy, called the PAOCTF "a PNP within the PNP."

The new head of the PAOCTF is Director Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., a former Manila police chief.

The former PNP chief, Director General Panfilo Lacson, used to lead the task force.

'AMERICAN PSYCHO'

Be prepared, be very prepared for blood, wit and a hangover

BY EMMIE G. VELARDE

WITH onion marmalade and grilled free-range rabbit among the gourmet dishes proffered by snooty waiters in the opening restaurant sequence, I knew I was in for a disquieting ride.

REVIEW

Not that I hadn't been warned. Two friends said "American Psycho" was a little too bloody for a non-meat eater. I was emotionally prepared for the slaughter (easy: close my eyes, cover my ears), but they didn't tell me about all the dining shots with rare tenderloin and red catsup.

The movie, now showing in Glorietta IV as an "art film," tells of a yuppie with a tragic flaw in "Reaganomics"-revved Manhattan of the 1980s. We've heard of the power-driven young executives of those times who snorted cocaine after work hours, others who cruised red-light districts, still others who beat up women and were unspeakably mean to people outside of their league.

Well, this one does all that, and because he is the main character, he does something more terrible than usual: He kills when he is stressed.

Trouble is, Patrick is always stressed. The pettiest things trigger his lust for blood so predictably after a while, it's hilarious. A colleague has a sharper-looking tie or sleeker business card, another gets dinner reservations where he can't, or has mastered the menu where he hasn't, or has a better view of Central Park from a bigger apartment than his.

To mark each annoying situation, he kills. Not always the offensive guy; often someone else, someone beneath him.

Voyeurism

For story-telling purposes, Patrick's madness peaks with the murder of a friend—an equal, at last. From this point on, his mind deteriorates at top speed. The movie itself runs out of new things to say, and this is only halfway through.

What keeps the viewer interested is the vivid voyeuristic peek into the decadent life of some very young, very successful and very rich urban professionals.

"American Pscyho" is Director Mary Harron's adaptation of the gruesome Bret Easton Ellis novel. She puts in dead-on period detail, cutting sarcasm and a screwball point of view in rehashing the far-from-startling premise, and that has made all the difference.

Cruelty

For instance, before knifing, axing or chain-sawing three of his victims (yes, I'm holding a barf bag), Patrick launches a discourse on the evolution of Huey Louis & the News, the philosophy behind Phil Collins' Genesis and, just before his final breakdown, the spiritual content of Whitney Houston's Greatest Hits.

It is made apparent that the end is near when, as Patrick draws cash from an ATM, the machine flashes an unusual instruction: "Feed me a stray cat." The psycho tries to do just that, but an old woman sees and screams, so he drops the kitty and shoots her instead. He is chased by two police cars, which he blows up with two or three shots from his gun, just like in animation movies. He is very amused.

Undeniably the movie rates so high in cruelty quotient, that at times one wonders if everything is happening only in the main character's head, in which case the filmmaker is merely showing what goes on even in normal people's minds, just because they're sure nobody can read the most morbid thoughts.

Everybody has fantasized about striking the living daylights out of someone, Harron seems to be saying.

Prior to this, everybody has been sucked, at some point in their lives, into a community, or just a circle of acquaintances that made them feel alienated, empty, or simply needing to work harder for self-esteem. As a result, everybody has experienced clutching at limited attainments—a title, a new car, a fat bank account, an expensive wardrobe—to sustain limited happiness.

Greed, disgust

Patrick is a creature of habit, subscriber to all the clichés that define the subculture he has embraced. Pampers his body, keeps a spotlessly clean and painfully neat apartment, can tell a branded outfit from a fake in half a glance.

What's wrong with that? Nothing, except that he realizes he is propelled by "only two emotions—greed and disgust." And he cannot stop himself.

This is not a new protagonist mold, either. But Harron is very good at harnessing space and images to spell out character and atmosphere, especially one of dread. And her gift of conditioning audiences to total submission is shocking, once realized.

When Patrick pulls open a kitchen drawer to decide which instrument of death he will use in a little while, my seat turned into ice.

Agitation

On the other hand, her funny scenes are packed with pure wit and more than passing familiarity with the milieu. I can still hear crisp chuckling in the air.

Christian Bale as the savage and twisted Patrick delivers a performance described by critics as "wonderfully agitated." Agitation is an accurate word here. I made two trips to the toilet and was looking over my shoulder both times.

Supreme agitation comes in the final sequence, when Patrick confesses to the murders and his own lawyer refuses to take him seriously. I thought that was somewhat predictable, too, but for a little twist that made me flashback to my earlier suspicion that everything was really just Patrick's imagination.

I do not wish to spoil it for you by spewing it out. Suffice it to say that I could never imagine what a hangover must feel like, until now.

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Umaatikabong Aksyon sa Lunes:
JESUS DELA CRUZ AT ANG MGA BATANG RILES

Tue Jan. 30 Donna Cruz
Tuesday's Tambay Time:
ISANG TANONG, ISANG SAGOT

Wed Jan. 31 Dina Bonnevie
Madamdaming Miyerkules:
HUWAG MONG ITANONG KUNG BAKIT

Thu Jan. 25 Anjanette Abayari
Director's Masterpiece:
DARNA, ANG PAGBABALIK

Fri Jan. 26 Angelu De Leon
Premiere Express sa Biyernes:
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SECRETARIAT: Exec. Coordinator: Milet B. Mendoza, Assisi Development Foundation, Inc., 3/C Strata 2000, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605 MM Tel. No. 6321001-03 Fax 632-7844, Website: www.inquirer.net E-mail: tabang@mindgate.net.

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FOR A GRAND TOTAL OF P29.7M disbursed since May 2000,

A total of 27,764 evacuee-families or over 165,000 persons has been provided with food relief assistance.

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An Integrated Return & Rehabilitation Program (IRRP) has commenced in Brgy. Nalapaan, Pikit, Cotabato for 537 returning family evacuees. The IRRP will be replicated in three or more communities.

A total of 1,322 children-evacuees is covered by psychosocial program intervention and supplemental feeding.

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SPACE DONATED BY PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Objection, your honor, your boy toy has a girlfriend

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

DESPITE an action star's vehement denials that he is the boy toy of an influential politician, insiders insist there is some hanky-panky going on between them.

The owner and the habitues of the bar where Mr. Action Star and the gay politico usually meet told me that they've seen the actor alone waiting for the politician to fetch him in his heavily tinted car. The politico does not step out of the car.

The funny thing in show biz is that the more you try to conceal something, the more it is revealed. Since the bar habitues were so intrigued by the actor's mysterious date, they hid and took a peek when the actor was about to board the car. They were dumbfounded when they saw the politico inside.

No wonder the action star can afford to live like a king even if he has hardly any movie or TV projects. Wonder if his girlfriend has any inkling at all about this affair, or is she just coasting along? If she ever comes face to face with the politico, will she express her objection? And will it be sustained or overruled?

Just asking

WHAT will happen to "Walang Iwanan," the movie of **Judy Ann Santos** and **Jinggoy Estrada**? The aftermath of People Power 2 is definitely bad timing for a Jinggoy starrer. Can Juday's legions of followers come to their rescue?

Now that **Charlene Gonzales** is all set to marry **Aga Muhlach** and **Franco Laurel** is also engaged, would Charlene's other cohost, **Troy Montero**, be far behind? Love is contagious and so is marriage. Just be ready for the side effects. If Troy is following in their footsteps, they should do a special episode of "Keep on Dancing" and call it "Keep on Marrying!"

The likes of **Kuh Ledesma**, *Direk* **Joey Reyes** and other well-respected artists have aired their fears about the appointments being made by President **Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo**. Will GMA heed their pleas?

Will **Bernadette Allyson** pursue her long-cherished dream to join the Bb. Pilipinas contest now that she's not too active in show biz anymore? Who knows? **Miriam Quiambao**'s luck might just rub off on her.

Now that Aga and **Joyce Jimenez** have their own sitcom, how will Aga resist the charms of Joyce? We all know he's engaged to Charlene so it goes without saying that other women are already a no-no. Or will he try to enjoy the last few months of his bachelorhood? But when Aga falls, he really falls.

Since **Ruffa Mae Quinto** has invaded the recording scene, I won't be surprised if intrigues crop up pitting her against **Jessa Zaragosa** (the fiancée of her ex, **Dingdong Avanzado**). Jessa also did some movies before but she's more of a singer than an actress. As for Ruffa Mae, is she better off as a singer or as an actress?

After **Alma Concepcion** gave birth, she has been out of the scene. Is she so happy being a mother that she does not seem to miss show biz at all? Considering how controversial she was during the Guam drug scandal, I suppose Alma's enjoying her privacy this time around.

With Valentine's Day just about two weeks away, is your heart where it should be? Many singers will have V-Day concerts, and some foreign artists are also slated to do their own V-Day shows. There may be room for every artist in our hearts but not in our pockets. How much the V-Day concert tickets cost should be directly proportional to how much you love your date.

For feedback e-mail wateringhole2000@yahoo.com.

True Faith at Hard Rock

TRUE Faith returns to Hard Rock Café for a one-night concert, Jan. 30, 9:30 p.m.

True Faith will sing some of its signature hits like "Perfect," "Huwag na Lang" and their current chart-toper, "Kung Okay Lang sa 'Yo."

On regular days, Hard Rock continues to offer its nightly gigs for the month of February.

Pido with Take One sings on Mondays, Mulatto on Tuesdays, League of Cayuca on Wednesdays, Silk on Thursdays, Next Level back to back with Parliament Syndicate on Fridays, Big on Saturdays and Limited Edition on Sunday (Feb. 4), Put3ska (Feb. 11) and Arnel Pineda and the Glass (Feb. 18 and 25).

For inquiries and reservations, call 893-4661 to 63.

PADILLA

Three in 1 on Feb. 14

IT'S love times three this Valentine's season with Zsa Zsa Padilla, Freestyle and Lani Misalucha performing in a special Valentine show, "The Love Concert," on Feb. 14 at the Araneta Coliseum.

Zsa Zsa's drawing power has been proven a long time ago. She has several hit concerts to her name, including two successive sold-out Valentine shows with Side A and Martin Nievera.

Fresh from their phenomenal concert on Oct. 14 also at the Araneta Coliseum, Freestyle promises to deliver another rousing show of top 40 hits and their own songs.

Lani also had her debut performance at the Araneta Coliseum. Expect nothing but the best from one of the country's most applauded divas.

Tickets to "The Love Concert" are P1200, P800, P600, P300 and P100, and are available at the Araneta booking office and at all SM Ticketnet outlets.

"The Love Concert" is being brought to you by Mossimo. Musical direction is by Louie Ocampo, and TV and stage direction is by Rowell Santiago.

PUNO

Rico J is back

MAKATI Councilor Rico J. Puno, one of pop music's foremost icons, recently took the time to record his comeback album in the midst of his hectic work schedule in public office.

Rico's latest work includes all original compositions by top producers, writers and arrangers such as Vehnee Saturno, Nonoy Tan, Bodjie Dasig and Lito Camo.

Rico's popularity as a singer soared during the '70s with such signature hits such as "Kapalaran," "May Bukas Pa," "Lupa," "Macho Guapito" and the Tagalog version of Barbra Streisand's "The Way We Were."

Rico's new album is under BMG Records Pilipinas.

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Work offers keep coming but what Donita waits for is the right man

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

EVERYTHING'S still coming up roses for **Donita Rose**.

The past year had been another very fruitful year for Donita who, as a Singapore-based MTV veejay, she had to visit several places like the United States, Guam, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Japan and China.

The most memorable part of the past year for Donita was when she was chosen to be the muse of the International Polo Competition in London, where she met Queen **Elizabeth**.

She also interviewed music artists such as **Jon Bon Jovi**, 98 Degrees and Westlife.

Now on her third year on MTV Asia, Donita continues to makes waves. She hosts several shows on MTV, like "Most Wanted," "Fresh" and "Asia Hitlist."

The MTV exposure also opened other doors for her. She appeared in Singapore's 13-week mini-series "Money," which was well received. There is a standing offer for her to do another series this year.

"I've been very fortunate to have this job," says Donita who recently renewed her contract with MTV Asia. "I wouldn't trade this for the world. Working for MTV is so much fun."

She has been shuttling between Singapore and Manila to fulfill her many commitments here, thanks to Genesis Entertainment, which manages her career.

But the past year had also been exhausting for Donita. Now she wants to take time off from work and take a vacation.

"Maybe I'll go to the States and take up acting classes or even singing lessons so I can venture into something different," she says.

After taking a break, she would like to make movies this year so she can take the offers of Viva Films and Star Cinema. Last year, she appeared in the international release, "Legacy," opposite Hollywood actor David Hasselhoff. The film was released by ABS-CBN International.

Her career has forced Donita to sacrifice certain things, even personal happiness. She broke up with her Singaporean boyfriend last year and she now vows to concentrate on her work.

"Things are going so well for me," she says. "I'm really just going to wait for the right guy to come along. If I persevere, I know the Lord will give me someone better."

DONITA Rose.

Heavy dose of Marissa

THE star of **Marissa Sanchez** just keeps on shining brighter. After her humble beginnings at the Hyatt's Calesa Donita waits for is the right man

Recently, she went into recording and released a debut album from Viva Records.

The windfall can be attributed mostly to Marissa's talent. She's not only good in comedy, she also has a powerful singing voice.

Of course, her talent manager **Nestor Cuartero** also has a lot to do with Marissa's rise.

Marissa likewise is grateful to comic rapper **Andrew E.**, who produced her album and wrote most of the songs.

Andrew said he took extra care in projecting Marissa as naughty but lovable.

"She has a great singing voice and comic talent so I tried to give her songs that may have sex between the lines but can be dismissed as simply humorous," Andrew E. says.

The album's naughty carrier single is called "Dakota Nota." The other novelty cuts he wrote for her are just as risqué: "Fax Me," "Ibaon Mo," "X-Men," "Labi Mo," "Alam Mo Ba," "Ayaw na, Sige Pa," "Dahan-Dahanin Mo," "Kayo and I" and "Magbatee na Tayo."

Marissa also included serious tunes like her own version of "Don't Forget Me" and a haunting new piece, "Sa Ala-Ala na Lang," written by **Jojo Espino**.

A contract artist of ABS-CBN, Marissa appears on the daily noontime program "Magandang Tanghali Bayan," on the weekly sitcom "Pwedeng-Pwede" and on the Sunday variety show, "Asap."

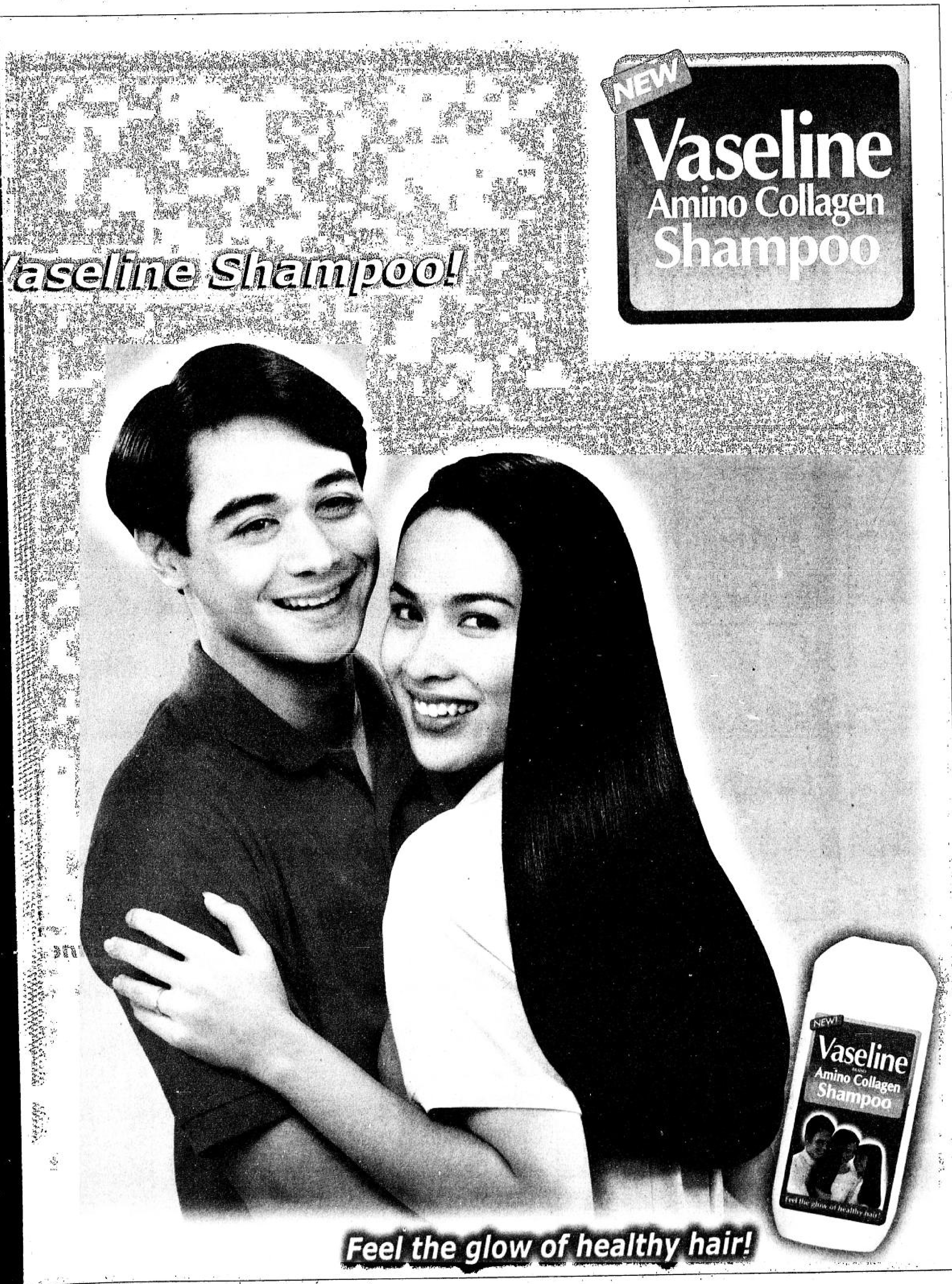
Gilbert for congressman

IS it true that ABS-CBN news talent **Gilbert Remulla**, the youngest of seven children of former Cavite Gov. **Johnny Remulla**, is throwing his hat into the political ring?

Gilbert is said to be seriously considering running for congressman of Cavite, following in the footsteps of his father. His elder brother **JonVic** is the Cavite vice governor.

If Gilbert does run, he will reportedly run against former National Bureau of Investigation chief **Epimaco Velasco** and **Renato Dragon**.

SANCHEZ



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1	DOLBY SURROUND	LITTLE NICKY
2	DOLBY SURROUND	RED PLANET
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	DUDE, WHERE'S MY CAR?
4	DOLBY SURROUND	BOOBA
5	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	WHIPPED
6	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
7	DOLBY SURROUND	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
8	DOLBY SURROUND	HIGHLANDER

SM CENTERPOINT 7149522 • 7161416

1	DOLBY SURROUND	BOOBA
2	DOLBY SURROUND	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
3	DTS	RED PLANET
4	DOLBY SURROUND	DUDE, WHERE'S MY CAR?
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	HIGHLANDER
6	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	LITTLE NICKY
7	DOLBY SURROUND	WHIPPED
8	DOLBY SURROUND	MEET THE PARENTS
9	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	DOLBY SURROUND	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
2	DOLBY SURROUND	MEET THE PARENTS
3	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
4	DOLBY DIGITAL	HIGHLANDER
5	DOLBY SURROUND	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
6	DOLBY SURROUND	WHIPPED
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	BOOBA
8	DOLBY SURROUND	DUDE, WHERE'S MY CAR?
9	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
10	DOLBY SURROUND	RED PLANET
11	DOLBY SURROUND	LITTLE NICKY
12	DOLBY SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	RED PLANET
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	DUDE, WHERE'S MY CAR?
3	DOLBY SURROUND	HIGHLANDER
4	DOLBY SURROUND	LITTLE NICKY
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	WHIPPED
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	MEET THE PARENTS
7	DOLBY SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY
8	DOLBY SURROUND	REMEMBER THE TITANS
9	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
10	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
11	DOLBY SURROUND	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
12	DOLBY SURROUND	BOOBA

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR 8820950

1	ULTRA SURROUND	BOOBA
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MALIKOT ANG AGOS

SM MEGAMALL 6331901 • 6329401

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	ART MOVIE
2	DOLBY SURROUND	WHIPPED
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	HIGHLANDER
4	DTS	RED PLANET
5	DOLBY SURROUND	DUDE, WHERE'S MY CAR?
6	DOLBY SURROUND	LITTLE NICKY
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MEET THE PARENTS
9	DOLBY SURROUND	BOOBA
10	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	DOLBY SURROUND	BOOBA
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
4	DOLBY SURROUND	LITTLE NICKY
5	DOLBY SURROUND	HIGHLANDER
6	DOLBY SURROUND	WHIPPED
7	DTS	DUDE, WHERE'S MY CAR?
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	RED PLANET
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	KANGKONG
10	DOLBY SURROUND	MEET THE PARENTS
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	REMEMBER THE TITANS
12	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888 • 8066782

1	ULTRA SURROUND	LITTLE NICKY
2	ULTRA SURROUND	WHIPPED
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	HIGHLANDER
4	ULTRA SURROUND	DUDE, WHERE'S MY CAR
5	ULTRA SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY
6	ULTRA SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
7	ULTRA SURROUND	BOOBA
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	BALAHIBONG PUSA
9	ULTRA SURROUND	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
10	ULTRA SURROUND	RED PLANET

TUTUBAN CENTER 2514302

1	ULTRA SURROUND	DUDE, WHERE'S MY CAR?
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BOOBA
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA

SM CEBU 2313876

1	DOLBY SURROUND	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
2	ULTRA SURROUND	WONDER BOYS
3	ULTRA SURROUND	KANGKONG
4	ULTRA SURROUND	LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE
5	ULTRA SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
6	ULTRA SURROUND	DUDE, WHERE'S MY CAR?
7	DOLBY SURROUND	SUGATANG PUSA

SM ILOILO 3203422

1	ULTRA SURROUND	LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE
2	ULTRA SURROUND	LOST SOULS
3	ULTRA SURROUND	FRIENDS & LOVERS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
5	ULTRA SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
6	ULTRA SURROUND	LITTLE NICKY
7	ULTRA SURROUND	HIGHLANDER
8	ULTRA SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY

SM PAMPANGA 7128015

1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	LITTLE NICKY
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
3	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	RED PLANET
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
6	DOLBY SURROUND	BOOBA

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2 LITTLE NICKY
3 WHIPPED
4 HIGHLANDER

GLORIETTA 4 All Digital Sound

1 MEET THE PARENTS in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2 LITTLE NICKY in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 THE RED PLANET THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 AMERICAN PSYCHO (Phil. Premiere) in DTS DIGITAL SOUND Art Film
5 THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6 DUDE, WHERE'S MY CAR in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7 REMEMBER THE TITANS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1 THE RED PLANET in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2 DUDE, WHERE'S MY CAR in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3 BOOBA in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4 SOON TO OPEN Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1 DUDE, WHERE'S MY CAR THX in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2 LITTLE NICKY in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 THE RED PLANET in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5 BOOBA in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) HIGHLANDER
2 (SDDS) LITTLE NICKY
3 (DTS) DUDE
4 GOLD (DTS) RED PLANET
5 GOLD (DOLBY) WHIPPED/CAST AWAY (Spl Screening 10:00)
6 GOLD (SDDS) CLOSED
7 GOLD (DOLBY) REMEMBER THE TITANS
8 (DOLBY STEREO) TANGING YAMAN
9 BOOBA
10 BALAHIBONG PUSA

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486
1 MALIKOT ANG AGOS
2 BALAHIBONG PUSA
3 (DTS)
4
5
6 (DTS) REMEMBER THE TITANS
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315
1 (DOLBY) RED PLANET
2 (DTS) RESERVE
3 SUPER IDOL

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603
1 BOOBA
2 MALIKOT ANG AGOS
3 BALAHIBONG PUSA

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986
1 BOOBA
2 DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO
3 MALIKOT ANG AGOS
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) RED PLANET
5 WHIPPED

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001
1 DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO
2 MALIKOT ANG AGOS
3 BOOBA
4 BALAHIBONG PUSA
5 HIGHLANDER
6 RED PLANET
7 KANGKONG
8 RESERVE

Uniwide Metromall
(Las Piñas) tel. 873.5606 loc. 1074
1 ALINDOG NI BARBARA
2 CRIME STOPPER
3 TUKSO NG PANAHON
4 WATCH 3 MOVIE FOR ONLY P30.00
5
6

Uniwide Coastal Mall
(Parañaque) tel 879.0001 loc. 2152
1 SAMBAHIN ANG PURI MO
2 AKIN KA NGAYON GABI
3 PIRANHA III
4 WATCH 3 MOVIE FOR ONLY P30.00

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 BALAHIBONG PUSA
2 JUAN & TED

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515
1 RESERVE
2 DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO
3 MALIKOT ANG AGOS

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864
1 BOOBA
A MALIKOT ANG AGOS

JC Cinema
(Parañaque) tel 825.8626
1 LARO SA BAGA
3 EROTIQUE

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588
1 (DOLBY) BOOBA
2 BALAHIBONG PUSA
3 MALIKOT ANG AGOS
4 HIGHLANDER
5 RED PLANET
6 WHIPPED
7 (DTS) DUDE
8 (SDDS) REMEMBER THE TITANS
9 (DOLBY) LITTLE NICKY

Caloocan
tel 362.3508
2 BALAHIBONG PUSA
3 BOOBA
4 MALIKOY ANG AGOS
5
6

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 BALAHIBONG PUSA
2 BOOBA
3 MALIKOT ANG AGOS
4 (SDDS) LITTLE NICKY
5 BALAHIBONG PUSA
6 (DOLBY) HIGHLANDER
7 (DTS) RED PLANET
8 SUPER IDOL
9 DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083
1 (DTS) RED PLANET
2 BALAHIBONG PUSA
3 TANGING YAMAN
4 DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO
5 (SDDS) WHIPPED
6 BOOBA
7 (DOLBY) HIGHLANDER
8 MALIKOT ANG AGOS

Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 KANGKONG
2 THE 6TH DAY
3 (DTS) RED PLANET
4 BALAHIBONG PUSA
5 (SDDS) MALIKOT ANG AGOS
6 (DOLBY) BOOBA
7 (DOLBY) HIGHLANDER

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 BOOBA

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 BOOBA

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO
Lords LOST PARADISE
Jennet AGOS NG DUGO

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 MALIKOT ANG AGOS
2 BOOBA
3 BALAHIBONG PUSA
4 RED PLANET

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215
1
3 MALIKOT ANG AGOS

Super Cinerama
(Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238
1 BOOBA
2 BALAHIBONG PUSA
3 KANGKONG
4 MALIKOT ANG AGOS
5 HIGHLANDER

Divisoria Mall
(Manila) tel 244.4560 or 244.4619
1 BOOBA
2 MALIKOT ANG AGOS
3 SUPER IDOL
4 OPERATION BLOCK SHIP
5 DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO
6 LAGARISTA

Baclaran LRT Cinema
tel 512.0115 or 512.0116
1 BOOBA
2 BALAHIBONG PUSA
3 MALIKOT ANG AGOS

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198
1 BALAHIBONG PUSA
2 BOOBA
3 (DTS) DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 BALAHIBONG PUSA
2 (DTS) HIGHLANDER
3 (DOLBY) LITTLE NICKY
4 BOOBA

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) BOOBA
2 DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO
3 MALIKOT ANG AGOS
4 (DTS) BALAHIBONG PUSA

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) CROCODILE
2 BOOBA
3 (DTS) DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO
4 BALAHIBONG PUSA
5 KANGKONG

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 BALAHIBONG PUSA
2 BOOBA
3 HIGHLANDER

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101
1 BALAHIBONG PUSA
2 BOOBA
3 HIGHLANDER

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311
1 100 GIRLS
2 BALAHIBONG PUSA
3 BUHAY NA MANEKIN

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736
1 RED PLANET
2 HIGHLANDER
3 CROCODILE

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1 BOOBA
2 MALIKOT ANG AGOS
3 DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO
4 RESERVE

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 243.2783
1 (DTS) BOOBA
2 (DTS) BALAHIBONG PUSA

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385
1 BOOBA

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 BOOBA
2 KANGKONG
3 HIGHLANDER

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 MEET THE PARENTS
2 SUPER IDOL
3 BALAHIBONG PUSA
4 RED PLANET

Berma
tel 879.2168
1 CLOSED
2 CLOSED

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269
1 RED PLANET
2 DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO
3 BOOBA
4 MALIKOT ANG AGOS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) REMEMBER THE TITANS
2 BALAHIBONG PUSA
3 BOOBA
4 (DTS EX) HIGHLANDER

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ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

BEAUTY PAGEANT 2001

BEAUTY PAGEANT 2001

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a special presentation

The human factor . . .

(From page A27)

Record holders

SOME local viewers of ABC-5's "Guin-ness World Records" show want to know how to get into the program. Well, you first have to develop a unique skill. Then, videotape yourself in action and send the tape to Guinness Media Incorporated for evaluation. For guidelines and other details check with the program's website: www.guinnessrecords.com.

If you're content to be a viewer, the show entertains because it features unique titleholders, like Yacov Yosipow of Israel, owner of the biggest bus ticket collection in the world (14,000 used tickets!), or pairs like Mark and Roberta Griswold, who hold the record for the longest kiss (29 hours!).

Groups are also featured, like the students of Southeast Missouri College, who hold the biggest "YMCA" dance record (6,907 dancers).

Mystery singer

FEW people know that, when they appeared in Sampaguita Pictures musicals in the '50s and '60s, stars such as **Tessie Quintana**, **Rita Gomez**, **Delia Razon** and **Amalia Fuentes** didn't do their own singing.

Instead, they lip-synched to the recorded singing voice of **Cora Ramos**, one of that period's "mystery singers." They were billed as such because they sang uncredited and unseen, making the stars of those decades sound good.

Ramos is featured on "Paco Park Presents," 6 tonight at Paco Park in San Marcelino, Manila.

Her mini-concert is titled "The Many Moods of Love," and guitarists **Jhun Advincula** and **Ahjee Aguilar** are featured as assisting artists. Admission is free of charge. (The one-hour program is shown on PTV-4 every Thursday at 11 p.m.).

Quote, unquote

ROBERT Frost: Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence.

Herbert Spencer: The great aim of education is not knowledge but action.

B.F. Skinner: Education is what survives when what has been learned has been forgotten.

Humphrey Davy: I have learned more from my mistakes than from my successes!

Oscar Wilde: Experience is the name everyone gives to their mistakes.

James Joyce: Mistakes are the portals of discovery.

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ERMITA 536-7809-14

1. THE RED PLANET
2. DUDE, WHERE'S MY CAR
3. BALAHIBONG PUSA
4. WHIPPED
5. HIGHLANDER
6. LITTLE NICKY
7. BOOBA

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1. THE RED PLANET
2. BOOBA
3. MALIKOT ANG AGOS
4. WHIPPED
5. TANGING YAMAN
6. BALAHIBONG PUSA

BACOLOD (034)441-0453

1. MEET THE PARENTS
2. LOST SOULS
3. BALAHIBONG PUSA
4. LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE
5. CRACKER JACK
6. TANGING YAMAN

DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	BOOBA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BALAHIBONG PUSA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	HIGHLANDER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	RED PLANET
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	DUDE, WHERE'S MYCAR
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	WHIPPED
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	LITTLE NICKY
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	RED PLANET
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	BOOBA
MIRAMAR	BUHAY NA MANEQUIN/ 100 GIRLS
ODEON	BOOBA
ODEON-2	WHIPPED
ROBEN	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
TANDEM-1	SPIRIT WARRIORS
TANDEM-2	NAGHUHUMIYAW
TIMES	URBAN LEGEND / BLESS THE CHILD
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	GATAS
ACT-2	ALINDOG NI BARBARA
ACT-3	TURN ON
ACT-4	PALIGAYAHIN MO AKO
CORONET-2	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
QUEZON-1	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
REMAR	BOOBA
REMAR-2	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	MALIKOT NA AGOS
OCEAN CINEMA-A	ASAL DIMONYO
OCEAN CINEMA-B	DUWAG LANG ANG SUMUSUKO
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	REMEMBER THE TITANS
CINEMA-2	THE RED PLANET
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KANGKONG
CINEMA-2	TANGING YAMAN
CINEMA-3	BALAHIBONG PUSA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	REMEMBER THE TITANS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	THE 6TH DAY
CINEMA-6	BALAHIBONG PUSA
CINEMA-7	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
CINEMA-8	WHIPPED
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	RED PLANET
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HIGHLANDER
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	DUDE, WHERE'S MY CAR?
CINEMA-12	LITTLE NICKY
CINEMA-14	MEET THE PARENTS
CINEMA-15	BOOBA
LORES	
CINEMA-2	HIGHLANDER
CINEMA-3	KANGKONG
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	RED PLANET
CINEMA-2	DUDE, WHERE'S MY CAR?
CINEMA-3	MEET THE PARENTS
CINEMA-4	LITTLE NICKY
CINEMA-5	REMEMBER THE TITANS
CINEMA-6	PROOF OF LIFE

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THE LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE
(RT - 2:06)

TANGING YAMAN
(RT - 2:00)

January 28 - Sunday
2:00 PM - Legend of Bagger Vance
4:15 PM - Tanging Yaman
6:30 PM - Tanging Yaman
8:45 PM - Tanging Yaman
11:00 PM - Legend of Bagger Vance

PROOF OF LIFE

Meg Ryan / Russel Crowe
TOTAL TUESDAY TREAT - Special Advanced Screenings Tuesday, January 30, 2001

Hear the Difference. Feel the Excitement

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

The human factor in sci-fi films

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

MANY science-fiction movies fail to engage viewers' empathy because they're too incredibly high-tech and slick, with little attention paid to the human factor. Their makers forget that the movie audience is made up of people, not robots or machines.

While they may admire state-of-the-art or futuristic sheen and gloss for awhile, they soon need to touch base with their feelings, and if a sci-film's production values are too implausibly pluperfect, they quickly lose interest.

Happily, "Red Planet" turns out to be one of the few science-fiction movies that avoid this pitfall. While its high-tech touches are impressive, sometimes even dazzling, the movie doesn't lose track of that all-important human factor.

At first, everything does look pluperfect as a mission to Mars sets out on its six-month voyage with awesome precision. We're in the year 2025, when our planet is about to expire from pollution, and mankind is preparing a settlement on the red planet, where algae farms are being cultivated to provide food and oxygen.

A crew of six brilliant astronauts is being commanded by a woman (**Carrie-Ann Moss**). The space voyagers include a maintenance expert played by **Val Kilmer**, who starts out as the lowest man on the mission's totem pole, but soon ends up as its de facto leader.

Also on board is **Amee**, a navigational robot of amazing ability, and **Lucille**, the spaceship's prodigiously gifted computer. Initially, Amee is a prized member of the mission, but it later turns out to be the villain after a crash wrecks its circuitry, transforming it from benign co-explorer to systematic killer.

The mission turns tragic when the spaceship runs into lethal solar flares, forcing its crew to make a premature landing without its commander.

Things go from bad to worse when they discover that the settlement on the planet has been decimated by an unknown force. One by one, the space explorers fall prey to different dangers, not the least of which is Amee's sudden, murderous attacks.

A shocking discovery involves what's happened to the algae farms, which have been decimated by bizarre creatures that appear to be the products of evolution given a speeded-up burst by the radiation in outer space. The object lesson: man should desist from playing farmer on other planets!'

These sci-fi elements are arresting and provocative, but they aren't the movie's strongest suit. The film's most compelling element is its human dimension, the flawed nature of its seemingly "perfect" astronauts, their desperate instinct to survive, and their occasional nobility, as in the instances when some members of the crew offer to sacrifice themselves so that the others may live.

It's heartening, too, that the astronauts in the story solve unexpected problems not with high-tech gadgets or procedures, but with good, old common sense and elbow grease.

And that love is allowed to flare brightly in the dark and arid vacuum of space, filling it with a human essence much more vital than algae farms and state-of-the-art navigational robots cutely acronymed Amee.

VAL Kilmer in the epic romantic adventure, "Red Planet."

Feedback

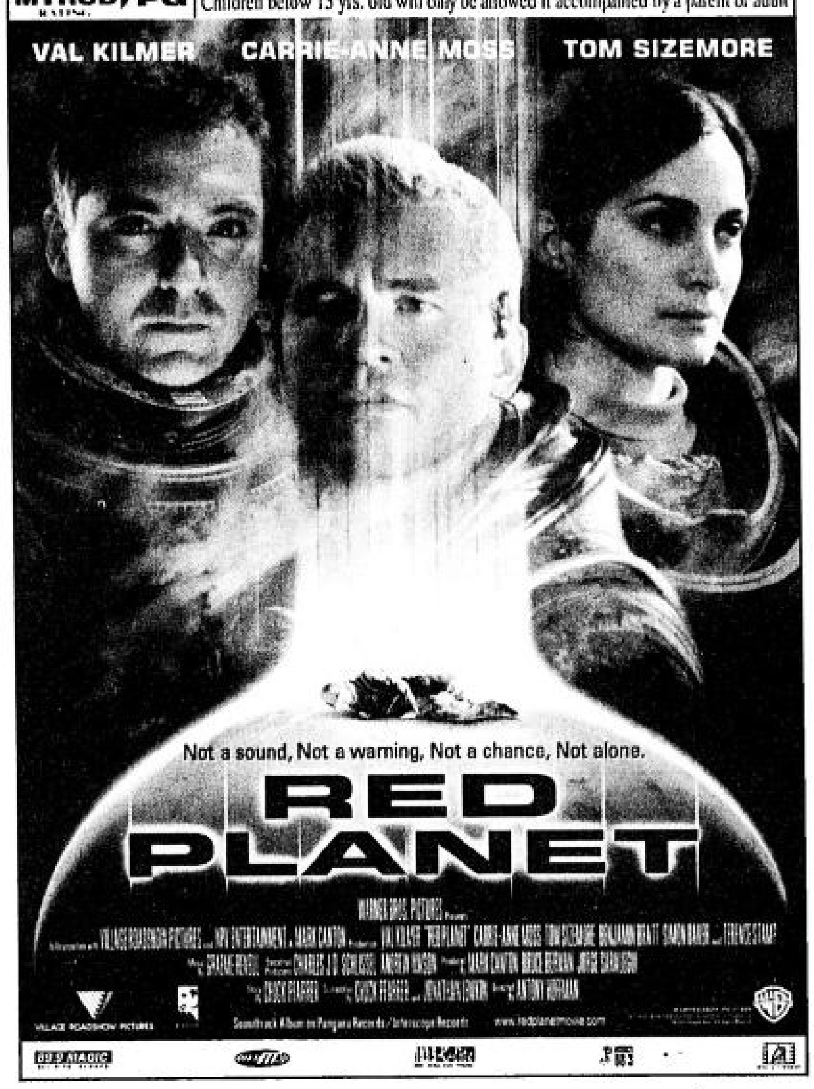
FROM **Famar Pangan Santos** of Minalin, Pampanga: "I'm glad to learn that the Irish band, The Corrs, will perform at Araneta Coliseum on Feb. 16. I hope that their traditional Irish tunes will imbue us with the spirit of hope and trust in our identity, just as they did in propagating their traditional arts and culture.

"I became a fan of The Corrs due to the impact of their songs during the celebrations at the Millennium Dome—particularly when they sang 'So Young,' which was so full of inspiring vigor and vitality.

"The Irish band is a good role model for our own musical groups to pursue the use of our own distinctive music, which I believe will someday also be accepted and admired internationally, just like The Corrs' songs.

"Finally, the fact that the Corrs are siblings proves that love and cooperation in the family is a powerful gift. This, I believe, is a good tool in the development of world-class musical artists."

THE HUMAN/ A26



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RED PLANET

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3 MEET THE PARENTS 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:20
4 LITTLE NICKY 1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 7:55, 10:00
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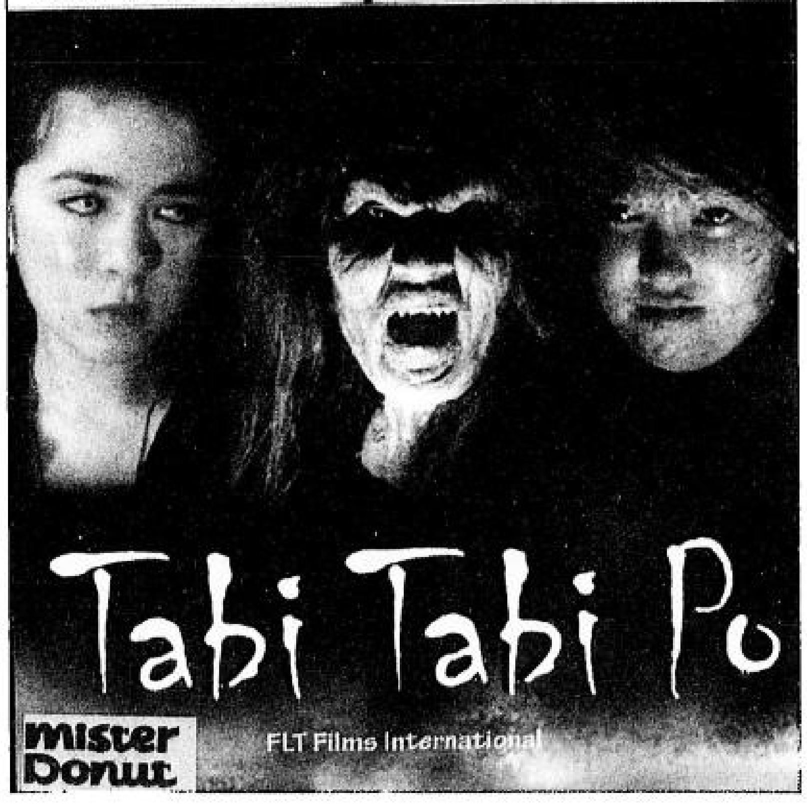

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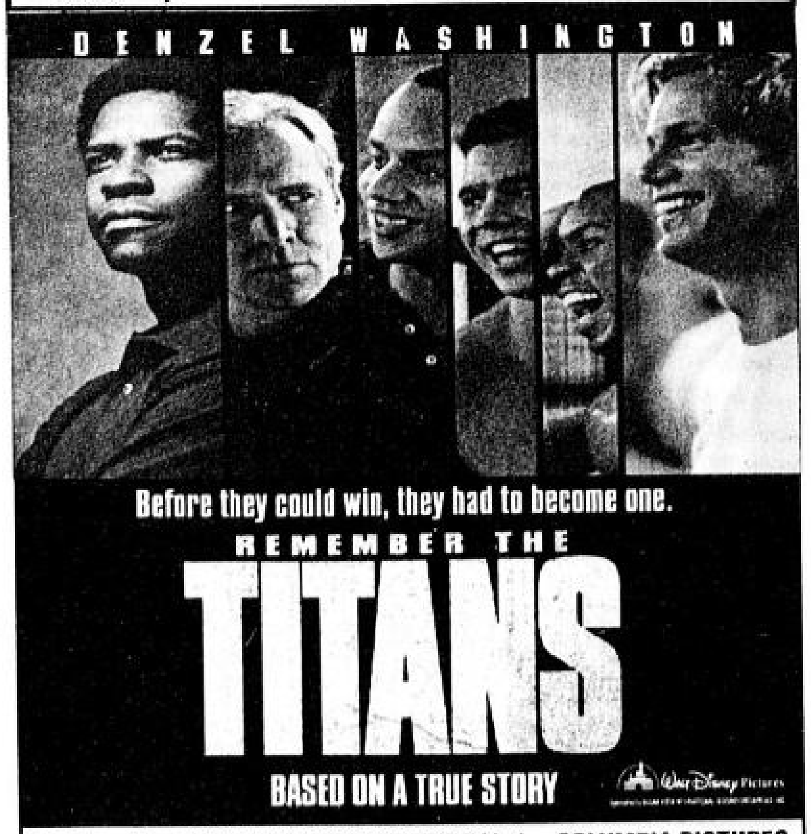

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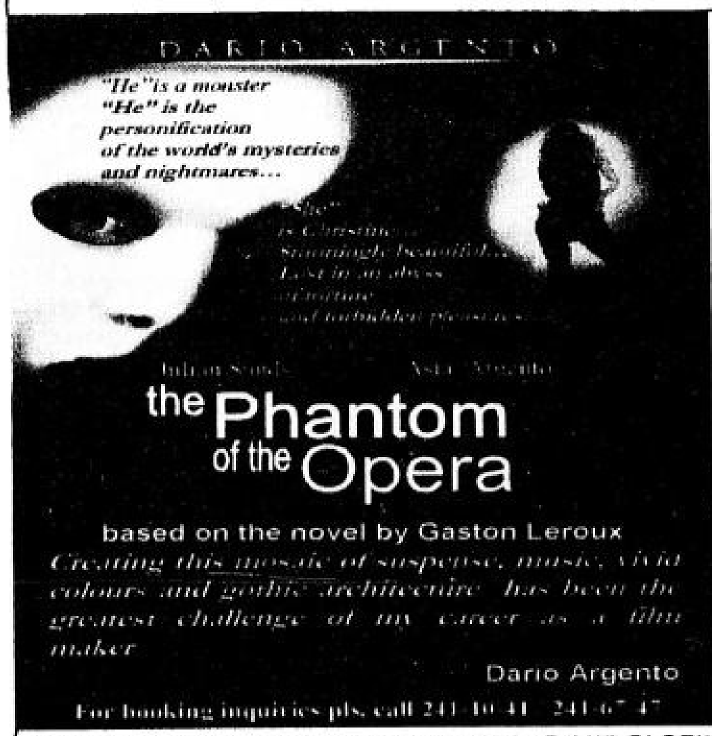

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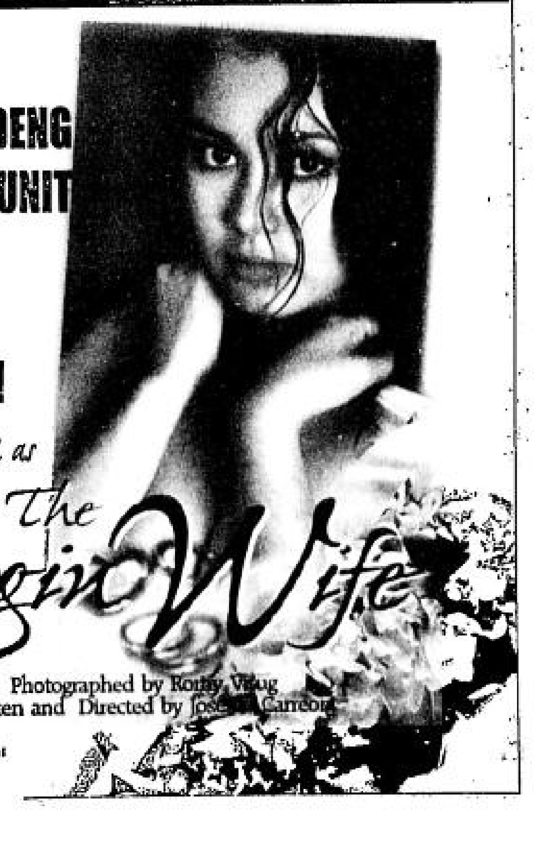

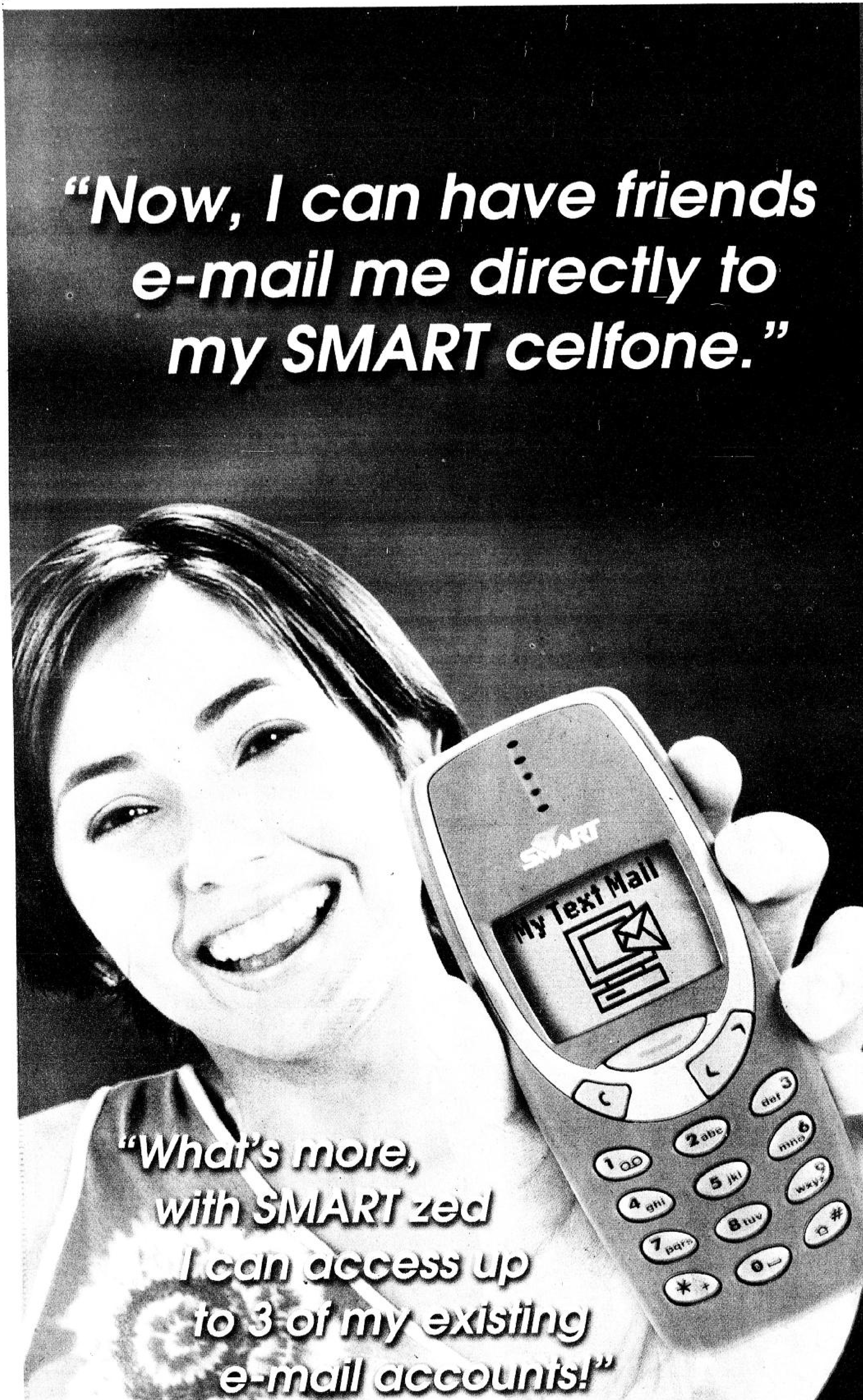

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Sunday BIZ

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

PLAYING the bass guitar relieves Magsajo's stress.

THE WORLD of banking and finance did not stop this bank president from pursuing his passion for music.

Banker makes his guitar weep gently

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

WHEN the Chamber of Thrift Banks held its Christmas party last month, the band which kept the crowd raving on the dance floor all night was led by no less than the group's new president, Francisco "Chito" Magsajo.

To this day, chamber members are still talking about how good the band was and how their newly elected president could be both a topnotch banker and a prime entertainer.

Perhaps he got the talent from his mom who used to sing in a church choir. Magsajo, also the president and CEO of RCBC Savings Bank, is a true-blue music lover who appreciates everything from classical to rock.

Magsajo says playing music and listening to it give him the solace amid the pressures of work.

He is also a vocalist and a bass guitar player. He says he has always been into joining combos (a '70s term for bands) since high school. While his entry into the world of banking and finance cannot stop him from pursuing his passion for music, it did put on the shelf his desire to continue playing with a group.

But two years ago, Magsajo donned his musician's cap and formed a band with friends, all of whom are fellow professionals and music enthusiasts. Other members of the band were Philippine National Bank SVP Boy Gamboa, engineer Kit Jaico and businessmen Rody Peñalosa and Nonong Santillan. (Magsajo used to be with PNB.)

"We like playing '60s to '70s music or any type of music. We like to do blending and harmonizing," he says.

Not long after, they were getting invitations from friends and relatives to perform during parties. Fortunately for the other younger and more professional bands, these men are too tied up in their careers first and foremost to give them a run for their money.

But private functions are different so when the Chamber of Thrift Banks held their Christmas party, what better treat could they get from their new president but to enjoy his band's live performance?

When he is not performing, Chito likes to simply listen to music. He has a vast collection of CDs and even analogue records. In fact, he boasts of his turntable record-player and his antique collection of long-playing albums and singles at home.

Family man

Other than being a good musician, the 52-year-old banker is also a good family man. He and his wife Raquel are active members of the Couples for Christ and, together with their chapter, have been active during the recent mass actions that led to the ouster of President Estrada.

He has three kids who are now all in their 20s and only the youngest, Rachel, is still in school. The eldest, 28-year-old Dong, is an editor in a local newspaper while Jojo, 26, is a teacher.

Chito, who used to handle PNB's overseas operations before joining the Yuchengco group of companies, likes traveling with his wife and visiting places both here and abroad.

Once in a while, they would go out of Manila, usually to Baguio, simply to "get out of the hustle and bustle of the metropolis."

The Magsajo family also likes dining out together at least once a week. "We always have fun dining out from McDonalds to the fine dining restaurants," he says.

Despite his work and his passion for music and travel, Chito is a

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How safe are hotels in the Philippines?

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

HOTEL guests really have it easy. They check in, go to their rooms, shower, eat, probably go the gym and then have a good night's sleep. They do not realize the beehive of activity at the backroom of the hotels to make sure they are safe and sound.

Safety and security are among the most important features that hotel management companies put in place to protect their reputation, along with good food, service, comfort and luxury.

Safety never played as big as role as this past year when Metro Manila was hit by bombing attacks and threats of terrorism. The scare peaked in Dec. 30 last year when five bombs simultaneously went off in the city, raising concerns that establishments like hotels are not equipped to protect their guests.

Local hotels surveyed by SundayBiz, however, say the local hospitality industry is one of the most concerned about the security and safety of its guests because there is always the threat that something may happen. They expect the unexpected, so to speak.

Dusit Hotel Nikko Manila

Chiyuji Fujimoto, general manager of Dusit Hotel Nikko Manila says safety and security are at the top of his list of most important concerns in running the hotel.

Dusit Hotel, for instance, employs a 70-member security force headed by Col. Fortunato Revillas of PMA Class '82 to protect the hotel guests and employees.

"Our security program is a multi-faceted one, combining the use of sophisticated equipment, a well-trained and disciplined force, drills and other forms of educating employees and guests, and strict enforcement of security procedures," Revillas says.

DUSIT Hotel's security personnel check baggage, frisk guests and use cameras to keep the hotel safe.

EXTRA people are deployed to check cars.

Dusit Hotel prides itself in using a sophisticated walk-through metal detector at the main and side entrances to ensure that no bomb will get into the hotel. The hotel also checks luggage, cars, basement parking and employee entrance/exit areas as part of standard operating procedures.

"We also conduct regular security and safety seminars, quarterly general emergency drills, including fire, earthquake and other disasters, which are focused on the safe evacuation of hotel guests and personnel," Fujimoto says.

Mandarin Oriental Manila

Charisse Chuidian, director of communications of the Mandarin Oriental Manila, says the hotel uses almost the same kind of standard operating procedures. Like the Dusit, it also has security officers positioned at strategic areas in the lobby, public areas and the elevators. Roving guards monitor the hotel perimeter 24 hours a day.

A watchman clock is installed on every guest floor and fire exit to record the time when the roving security inspected the area.

"Security and emergency precautions comprise an entire section in the in-room directory of guest services, covering such emergencies as fire, typhoons and earthquakes. We also provide written advice to guests to make them cautious of prank calls and impostors. We encourage the use of the hotel's accredited taxis for their own safety," Chuidian says.

The Mandarin Oriental also inspects the fire extinguishers and fire safety equipment quarterly just to make sure that everything is ready. Employees go through general fire drills together with the Makati Fire Department.

The fire alarm system is tested weekly and there are unannounced periodic drills to test the responses of in-house fire brigade.

And as part of the hotel's continuing effort to improve its services, a close circuit television is being installed to further beef up its security and safety measures.

Discovery Suites

The Discovery Suites in Ortigas already has a closed circuit television (CCTV) system that allows security personnel working on shifts 24 hours a day to immediately respond to an emergency—be it a fire or even a heart attack.

"Even before the bombings hit Metro Manila, we were already strict in our security measures because most of guests make their home here. We regularly check the corridors, public areas and the perimeter as well. We also have a security manager who also goes around the hotel," says Discovery operations director Jose Parreño.

For added security, Parreño says Discovery Suites has a system where they have to pass through some 100 critical security stations every day using their watchman's card. These are monitored daily by the security managers.

"We also teach the employees on what to do during an emergency. We have procedures for handling bomb threats, earthquakes, typhoons, fire and even death. We have first aid classes and most of the people know how to administer CPR. We have refresher courses every two months," he says.

Pan Pacific Hotel

Pan Pacific general manager Desmont Acheson believes that security is the most important aspect of running a hotel, more so for his hotel which caters mainly to the embassies of the United States and Japan.

"If we are not perceived as safe then we have a problem because our guests require the utmost security," Acheson says.

Pan Pacific, for instance, has a safety committee that meets every month to discuss how the hotel can further improve the safety procedures that cover fire and life.

"We have a control center where we can immediately see if a fire alarm or a smoke detector went off. Our security team is immediately dispatched and they have radios and pagers so they can be contacted immediately," Acheson says.

The Pan Pacific conducts a full evacuation fire drill between two and four times a year to keep the employees and the guests on their toes. There are mini evacuation drills at least every week. These are unannounced and affect only the staff.

"We are all involved and we take these security procedures seriously," he says.

As an added security for guests, Pan Pacific has a key card system where only hotel guests can access the guest floors. A CCTV system is also in place to monitor movements along the public areas and corridors.

"We also have a system in place to protect guests who don't want anyone to know that they checked in the hotel. They can register under a false name if they want," Acheson adds.

Training programs for entrepreneurs set

THE PHILIPPINE Trade Training Center has finalized its training schedule for the first quarter of 2001. It has lined-up courses that will equip existing and would be entrepreneurs with appropriate skills that will aid them in pursuing their businesses successfully.

Programs to be implemented are: Basics of Exporting, Marketing & Selling Techniques, E-Tailing: Internet Business Gateway for Entrepreneurs? Costing & Pricing, Import Procedures & Documentation, Franchising: An Entrepreneurial Alternative, Wellness at the Workplace for Peak Performance. Legal Seminar for Businessmen, International Transportation & INCO Terms 2000, Capability Enhancement Through the Formation of an Entrepreneur,

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Basic Construction & Estimating Guide	Jan 31-Feb 1
Jewelry Appraisal & Pawnshop Mgmt.	Feb3-4
Decorative & Scented Candle Making	Feb 1-2
Cosmetic & Skin Care Products	Feb 6-7
Starting & Managing a Constructing Bus.	Feb. 7-8
Ticketing & Reservation for travel Agency	Feb 8-9

CHEMICAL & INDUSTRIAL MGMT.	
Silkscreen Printing	Jan.29-31
Oils & Lubricants	Feb 1
Resin Bonded Artware w/ Silicon Rubber Molding	Feb 2-3
Herbal & Transparent Soap Making	Feb. 10-11
Fiberglass Making	Feb. 10-11

FASHION, ARTS & CRAFTS	
Scented & Decorative Candle Making	Feb. 1-2
Basic Balloon Arts & Crafts	Feb.4
Basic Pattern Making	Feb. 5-6
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Miki, Canton, Steamed Noodles	Feb 1
Hotdog & Luncheon Meat Making	Feb 2
Basic Meat Processing	Feb 3-4
Native Ice Cream Making	Feb 3-4
Basic Baking Course	Feb 5
Chocolates & Assorted Candies w/ Molding	Feb.5
Pares / Toppings Business & Mgmt	Feb 6
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PREMIER CREATIVE PACKAGING, INC. (PCPI), one of the leading plastic manufacturers in the Philippines, was formally awarded its ISO 9002 certification last January 17, 2001 by Certification International Philippines, Inc. (CIPI). Present during the awarding were (from left) Ms. Melba Valdez (Neville-Clarke - president), Mr. Renato Navarette (CIPI - president), Mr. Marion Allam (PCPI - Assistant General Manager), Ms. Jocelyn De Leon (PCPI - General Manager), Ms. Esther De Leon (PCPI - President), Mr. Renato Cardinal (Neville-Clarke, PCPI - ISO Consultant), and Ms. Shirley Su-Alampay (PCPI - Sales Manager).

ADVT.

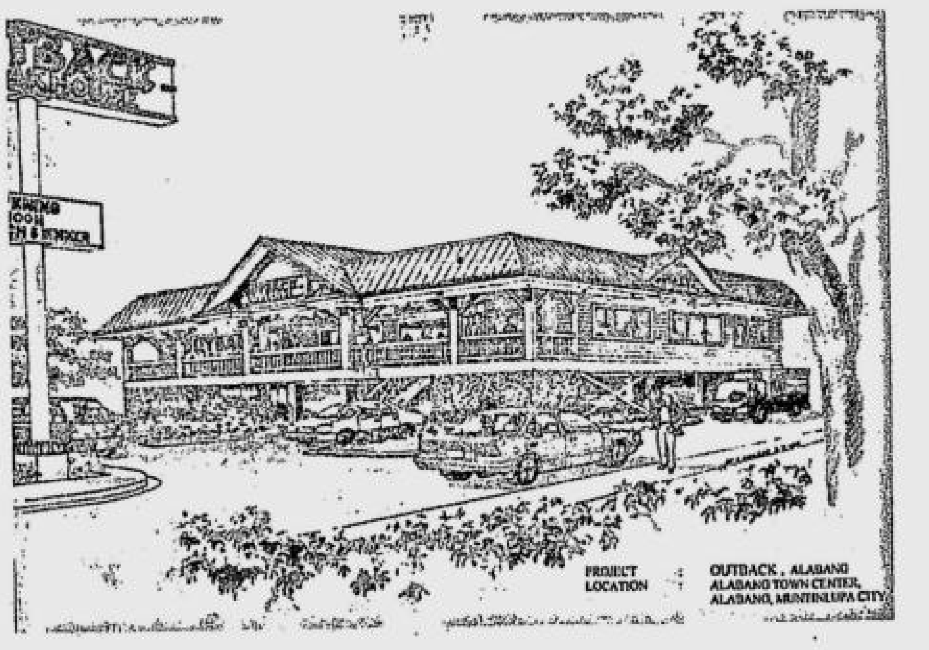
Food chain's expansion scheme–smaller is better

MERRITT Croker of Bistro Holdings Corp., says their company has identified and would implement in 2001, business strategies aimed at adapting to the country's changing economic climate and at maintaining market dominance.

(Bistro is the holdings company of T.G.I. Friday's, Italianni's and Outback Steakhouse in the Philippines.)

The changing market prompted Bistro to be creative in its expansion strategies. "What we would do is to take big business to smaller venues. Since we started operations in 1994, we have learned many valuable lessons—don't get the success syndrome and think smaller restaurants and think more of them," he says. This is true for Italianni's which will open its first Bakery and Cafe in Glorietta IV this February and more branches in other choice locations this year. A small replica of a full-sized Italianni's Restaurant, the 80-seater outlet will offer about 1/3 of the full restaurant menu.

Friday's will open in March 2001 a new branch in Sta. Lucia East which can sit 160 people. A full-sized Outback Steakhouse will rise in Alabang in April this year.



Right investment

Forging individual and corporate partnerships is an approach that Bistro Holdings has started implementing in 2000.

Croker says that the perfect investment for the current economic environment is one that has a two to one sales to investment ratio per year, carries just-in-time inventory, has little receivables, and earns cash everyday. Bistro Holdings concepts offer all these.

"We have been receiving a lot of inquiries from interested investors. In these times, we believe that joint venture is the way to go."

Taking care of people

"Compared to our competitors, we are in very good shape," says Croker. And one of the reasons why, he is quick to add, is that the company "takes care of the people who take care of our guests." (At Bistro, customers are called guests.)

One factor contributing to ROI is turnover of management and staff. The lower your turnover, the higher your profits. So we pay well and train well," Croker explains.

Cost-effective

"We have gotten rid of warehouses and trucks, as these tie up cash. We have cut overhead to the bone, that refers to anyone or anything not directly making or delivering food and drink to the guest. We have also been buying more from Europe and Australia besides the US for our imported items as the US dollar remains high. Finally, we have made some additions to our menus that result in more locally sourced items with our brands' twist to it," Croker says.

P1 billion sales mark

Croker is happy to report that hard times notwithstanding, Bistro Holdings sales and customer count continue to look good. "As we expand operations, Bistro sales is reaching the P1 billion mark," he enthuses.

Since its opening, T.G.I. Friday's Glorietta has continually topped the restaurant guest count among all Friday's worldwide for the last four years, while branches in Ortigas, Malate, Quezon City and Alabang continue to increase their shares in their respective markets. "We have already served millions of people, but overall roughly 100,000 per month."

Italianni's Makati and Outback Steakhouse Libis and Makati are bywords among patrons of good food, great atmosphere and value for money dining experience.

Croker acknowledges the support of its local shareholders and parent companies. "Our shareholders' experiences in the industry are like a library of knowledge. Our mother companies in the US, on the other hand, have seen that we are great operators and that we believe so much in our business and their brands, that they put their money where their mouth is and have invested. This adds confidence to our local shareholders and banks that they too have invested in a company of brands that are here to stay."

Giant multinationals merge

THE WORLDWIDE merger between two global giants, Unilever and Bestfoods was finally completed with the birth of a new foods division for Unilever called Unilever Bestfoods.

In the Philippines, Unilever is the leader in the home and personal care market, with brands such as Surf, Sunsilk, Vaseline, Creme Silk and Rexona. California Manufacturing Co. on the other hand, is the local subsidiary of Bestfoods, maker of leading food brands such as Knorr, Lady's Choice, Best Foods, Royal and Alsa.

Top executives from both companies headed by Unilever president Howard Belton and trade partners recently celebrated the completion and official start of the merger with a toast to the outgoing CMC president and general manager Anthony Lai and the incoming CMC managing director and Unilever Bestfoods general manager Marcial A. Aaron.

In his speech delivered during the event, Belton intimated that Unilever Philippines have long looked forward to a partnership with CMC given the company's strong leadership in the food market and an undisputable 34 years of continuous sales growth. Belton added that "Unilever is 100 percent committed to maintaining CMC's proud record of growth."

In his farewell message, Lai, CMC president and general manager for nine years, stated that the Philippines is still a great place to do business despite of the many man-made and natural disasters, the stiff competition in the market place and the ever-changing consumer lifestyles and eating habits.

Lai, who will assume the position of vice president for operations of Unilever-Bestfoods Asia in Hong Kong added that "there are many similarities between the two multinational corporations. This will be a very challenging year for Unilever-Bestfoods as we try to integrate various functions and organization structure, to leverage each other's strength, to seek synergies in different areas in more than 60 countries where both companies operate worldwide. I am very pleased to be able to play a role and be part of this integration process in Asia."

For his part, Aaron, former sales and marketing director of Unilever and according to Belton, "one of the biggest contributors to the rapid growth of Unilever Philippines over the past years" stated that the partnership "brings an excellent fit in terms of brands, marketplaces and management expertise."

In his welcome speech, Aaron further emphasized that Unilever and Bestfoods' combined experience in technology, marketing and the supply chain brings the possibility of delivering affordable products to 100 percent of the 76 million Filipino consumers.

CMC's top executives awarded Lai with a plaque of appreciation and Aaron with a plaque of commitment.

Coming from two established companies, Unilever Bestfoods is expected to further strengthen the food market leadership gained by CMC in its 34 years of operation.

Key to excellence: Bolt prison of self-betrayal

"Leadership and Self-Deception"
The Arbinger Institute
Berrett-Koehler Publishers Inc.

BY DANTE M. VELASCO

WHEN I saw this book from a shelf, the first word, "Leadership," served as a magnet—as all thoughtful books on leadership.

"Self-Deception," the word-phrase attached to Leadership, was both intriguing and puzzling. I jumped to conclusion: "Ah, this must be one of those 'psychology' types—speaking of leaders with illusions of grandeur, chameleon-like characters, and creatures of assiduously nurtured image of strength and virtue."

EXECUTIVE READ

A friend, a bibliophile, said: "This is a good book." That was an understatement. The book has stirred a revolution—where all revolutions start: from the heart.

Once a rare while, a book comes to momentarily lead us away from the corporate world of numbers and statistics, tactics and strategies, mergers and acquisitions, skills and technologies, logistics and resources.

A book comes to remind us corporations are actually made of people—not as human resources (in the same breath that there are machines and materials)—in the deepest sense of the word.

You will say, what else is new? CEOs and human resource managers have been singing praises to people as "heroes in the corporate world." This book asks: Do we mean it?

The question is asked, not because it is fashionable to jolt non-human resource people from their confining mindsets toward realizing the value of people—but because such a question, the book says, is "fundamental to the survival of the company."

For a book authored not by an individual but by a nameless group in the Arbinger Institute—it is refreshingly personal, warm and full of insights. The authors have wisely decided to deliver the gems of truth in a narrative. And, so much like in a gripping novel, you find yourself listening to the dialogue—even the silences. Before you know it, you are hooked.

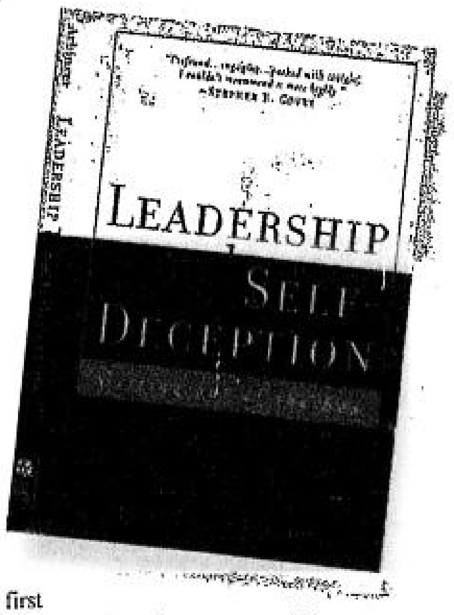
The book begins with Tom Callum, a fictional character and a two-month old executive of Zagrum, also a fictional outstanding firm. Then he meets Bud Jefferson, the executive vice president, who gives Tom an earth-shaking, self-worth shattering evaluation:

"You have a problem. The people at work know it; your spouse knows it; your mother-in-law knows it. I bet even your neighbors know it." And then the bombshell: "The problem is that you don't know it."

Only into page seven of the book, and you read this dialogue—and you're hooked! That's justifiably so, because at different levels, you will find yourself in Tom. Or you can identify yourself with the only three other characters in the essay narrative, who guide Tom through a journey of discovery, self-assessment, mindset liberation and transformation.

This is not a romanticized view of people in the corporate world. "Getting out of the box," as the authors put it, is "deeper than changing behavior." The book confronts an all-too-familiar situation where executives are non-productive and such "germ" of non-productivity infects his people. A true story of doctors—serving as carriers of a germ that led to high mortality rates among mothers giving birth—illuminates the point, frighteningly so.

The point of the book is this: If you are in a box—you are imprisoned by your own high regard of yourself and your unsatisfactory view of others. And since you are in a box of self-deception, you don't know that the people around you find you "not fun to work with." And you are surprised!



Samples of interesting dialogue:

"You can't focus on results because in the box you're focused on yourself."

"I saw in myself a leader who was so sure of the brilliance of his own ideas that he couldn't allow brilliance in anyone else's."

"When I'm in the box, I need people to cause trouble for me—I need problems."

"Success in an organization is a function of whether we're in the box or not and that our influence as leaders depends on the same thing."

This point is raised from the first pages of the book, but is enriched, expanded and deepened as you read about self-betrayal, blaming others—and ultimately in "questioning your own virtue." It sounds religious. It sounds like repentance or realizing how unworthy you are, but the authors manage to steer clear of deep religious or philosophical talk.

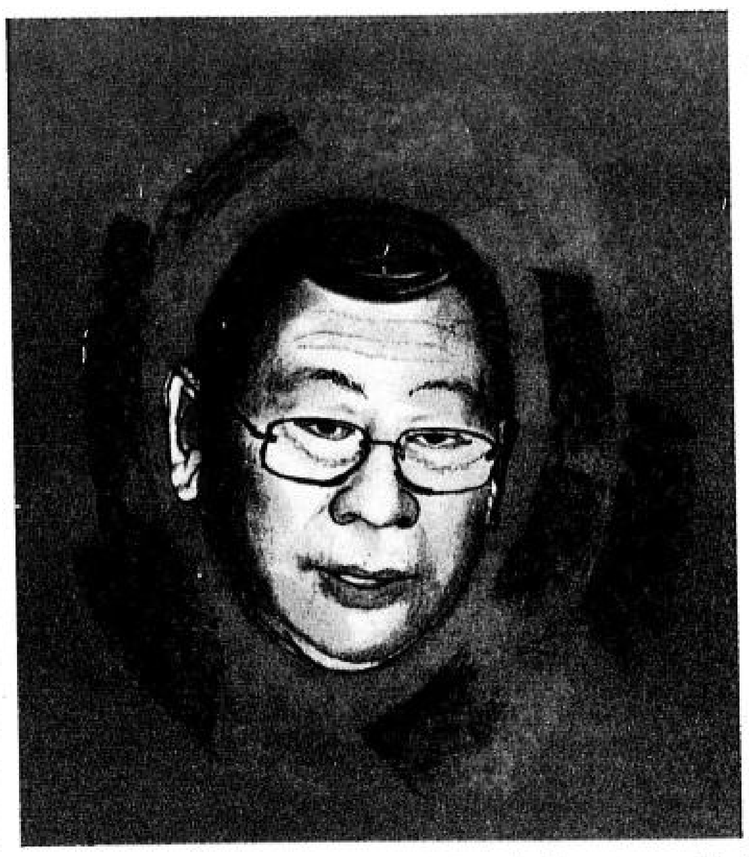
The reason the book avoids the usual turn-offs—pontification and pedantry—is that these truths are delivered in a story whose plot thickens along the way and the dialog keeps you waiting with bated breath for what happens next.

The insights are expressed in confessions by a venerable former CEO, a mentor-philosopher and the current CEO, who also share their own problems. Result: A deeply human account that can have a dramatic impact on a human institution—the corporation.

If you continue to be puzzled why your people are not delivering excellence as you expect them to, this book might be useful. You can stumble upon one startling truth. As one writer puts it: We have discovered the enemy—and the enemy is us. The good thing about it is this: You don't have to slay the enemy. You transform him—I mean, yourself.

IN YOUR FACE

BY L. P. LEVISTE



ONE of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's first acts as chief executive of the Philippines was to appoint former Sen. Alberto Romula as her finance secretary. It is a powerful post and most businessmen agree that he is the right person to wield that power.

Banker

(From page B1)

homebody at heart. He likes to spend the weekend, gardening, tinkering with his cars and watching TV while drinking red wine.

"I like red wine because it's good for the heart," he says.

He says his family keeps a small garden, which keeps him busy most of his weekends. He likes trimming the grass and picking the dry leaves himself.

"I like to look at the plants," he says.

Chito also likes to tinker with his cars and takes care of the detailing of his favorite 4x4 wheels, a Grand Cherokee.

Like any banker, Chito also plays golf, but relies on basketball and swimming to keep himself fit.

Training

(From page B2)

Creative and Technical Aspects of Exhibition and Visual Merchandising, Business Management Course, Feasibility Study Preparation for SMEs, Quality Management for the Garments Industry, ISO 9000 Documentation and Data Control, ISO 14000 Environment.

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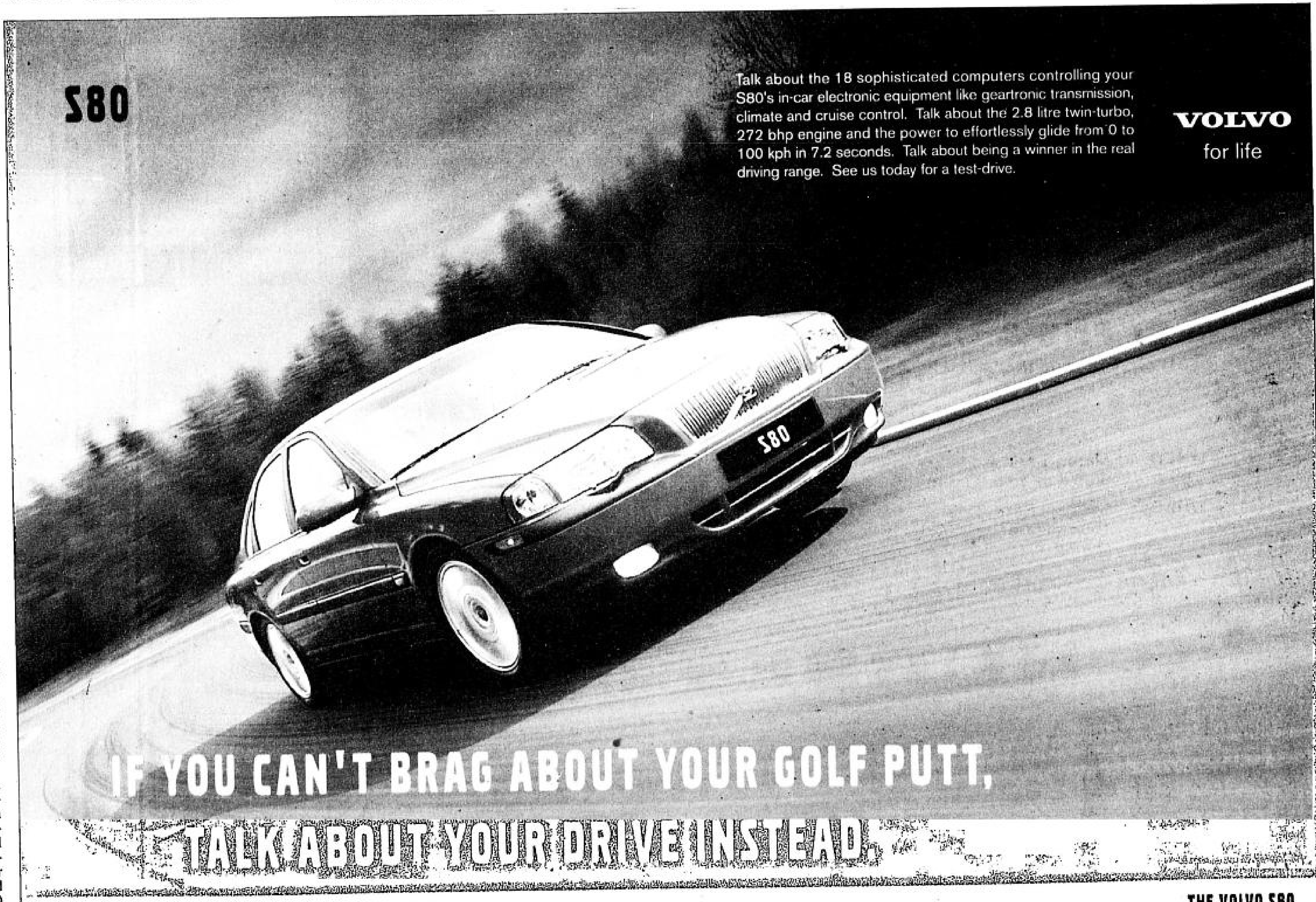
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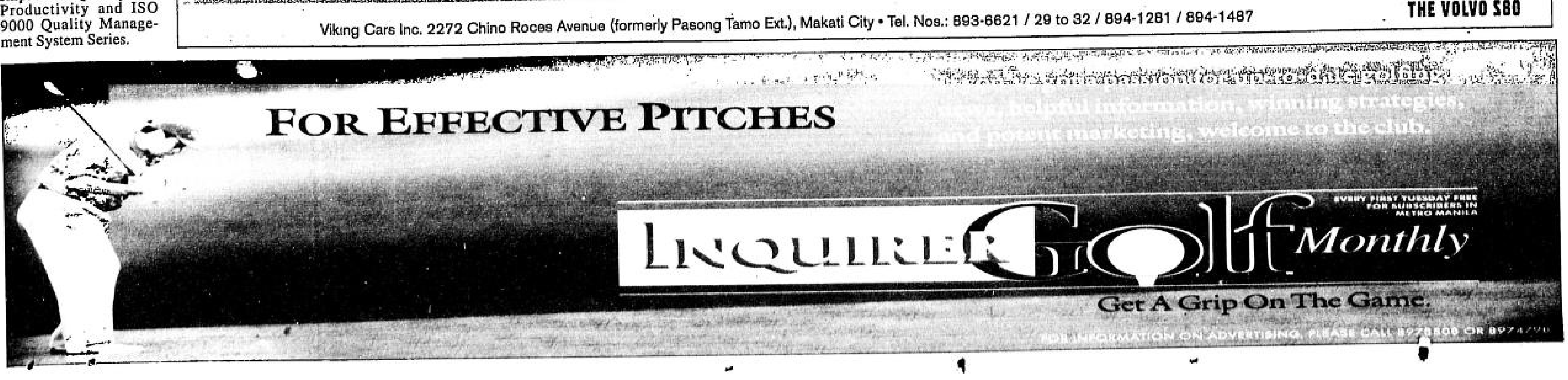

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NATIONAL EDITION

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DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Thursday 12:00 noon
Please turn to page B10 for more classified ads.

ANNOUNCEMENT

SANKYO SEIKI (PHILIPPINES) Manufacturing Corporation

A Japanese manufacturing company located at Subic Technopark, Subic Bay Freeport Zone engaged in the manufacture of micro motors for hard disk drives and other related products is in need of the following:

QUALITY CONTROL/ QUALITY ASSURANCE ENGINEER (3) (INCOMING / OUTGOING / PRODUCTION)
- Male/Female
- 23-30 years old
- With PRC license
- Preferably with experience in a manufacturing company
- With computer knowledge and skills

PRODUCTION CONTROL ENGINEER (1)
- Male/Female
- 23-30 years old
- With PRC license
- Preferably with experience in a manufacturing company
- With computer knowledge and skills

PRODUCTION PURCHASING ENGINEER (1)
- Male/Female
- 23-30 years old
- With PRC license
- Preferably with experience in a manufacturing company
- With computer knowledge and skills

PRODUCTION LINE STAFF (ASSEMBLY) (10)
- Female
- 23-30 years old
- With PRC license
- With experience in assembly, soldering and use of microscope
- Preferably with good eyesight
- With computer knowledge and skills

PRODUCTION LINE STAFF (PARTS PROCESS) (5)
- Male
- 23-30 years old
- With PRC license
- Preferably with experience in a manufacturing company
- With computer knowledge and skills

CHEMICAL ENGINEER (1)
- Female
- 23-30 years old
- With PRC license
- Preferably with experience in a manufacturing company
- With computer knowledge and skills

PRODUCTION MANAGERS (3)
- Male
- 25-35 years old
- With PRC license
- With extensive managerial experience in a medium to large scale manufacturing company
- With computer knowledge and skills
- With excellent interpersonal and communication skills

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT (1)
- Male / Female
- 23-30 years old
- With PRC license
- Knowledgeable with BOI regulations
- With experience in a manufacturing company
- With computer knowledge and skills

BUDGET OFFICER (1)
- Male / Female
- 23-30 years old
- With PRC license
- With experience in a manufacturing company
- With computer knowledge and skills
- Preferably proficient in Japanese language

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER (1)
- Male
- 23-30 years old
- Graduate of Electrical Engineering
- With PRC license
- With experience in maintenance of electrical equipment and instruments
- With knowledge in occupational safety standards
- With computer knowledge and skills

FACILITY ADMINISTRATOR (1)
- Male
- 23-30 years old
- Graduate of any Engineering course
- With PRC license
- With experience in facility maintenance works
- With knowledge in occupational safety standards
- With computer knowledge and skills

CHEMICAL ENGINEER (1)
- Male
- 23-30 years old
- Graduate of Chemical Engineering
- With PRC license
- With experience in industrial waste water treatment plant
- With knowledge in occupational safety standards
- With computer knowledge and skills

PLANT ADMINISTRATOR (1)
- Male
- 25-35 years old
- Graduate of any Engineering course
- With PRC license
- With extensive supervisory experience in plant administration
- With knowledge in occupational safety standards
- With excellent interpersonal and communications skills
- With computer knowledge and skills

ELECTRONIC DATA PROCESSING STAFF (4)
- Male
- 23-30 years old
- Graduate of Computer Science, Computer Management, Computer Engineering or any course related to Management Information Systems
- With experience in Information System / Computer Software for Production
- Preferably proficient in Japenese language

THE COMPANY WILL OFFER HIGHLY COMPETITIVE SALARY AND BENEFITS AND CHANCE FOR OVERSEAS TRAINING.

APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO SUBMIT THEIR BIO-DATA WITH PICTURE, TRANSCRIPT OF SCHOLASTIC RECORDS, DIPLOMA, PRC LICENSE AND OTHER PERTINENT DATA NOT LATER THAN FEBRUARY 9, 2001 TO:

SBMA LABOR & EMPLOYMENT CENTER
(BLDG. 255, RM. 166 ATTN: LABOR DEPT. MANAGER)
BARRYMAN ROAD, SUBIC BAY FREEPORT

CGFNS & U.S. LICENSED NURSES

Do you want to avail of an **Immigrant Visa Petition for Free?**
WE DARE YOU...
COME & COMPARE
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WHEN:	**March 1 and 2, 2001** **8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**	**March 04, 2001** **8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**
WHERE:	**Century Park Hotel** **1004 Malate** **Manila**	**Cebu Midtown Hotel** **Osmeña St.** **Cebu**

FREE

The **Directors** of **ATLANTIC HEALTH SYSTEM** (Morristown Memorial Hospital in Morristown, Overlook Hospital in Summit, Mountainside Hospital in Montclair, and the General Hospital Center at Passaic in Passaic) New Jersey, U.S.A. will hire Nurses in all Specialty areas.

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A ♥ the BEST
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***Ms. Amelia J. Olegario from New Jersey will be on hand to assist the Hospital Directors**

Please bring:

Typewritten Resumé and Original documents (CGFNS Certificate, Toefl, TSE, ICHP, College Diploma, High School Diploma, Birth Certificate, Marriage Contract if married, Transcript of Records, Related Learning Experience, PRC Certificate, Board Rating, PRC ID and employment Certificate with area of exposure.)

For more information: Please contact **Ms. Elsie T. dela Cura** of **EA Int'l. Placement** Rm. 203-204 Aurora Plaza Bldg., J. Bocobo cor. Arquiza Sts., Ermita, Manila, Telephone 5266431 or 5264642, 5258756.

Or EA Branch Office in Bacolod City Tel. 034 4338971 or 034 4343009

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☆ **AVAIL OF THE $2,500 RELOCATION ALLOWANCE** ☆

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* UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER (UMC) first group of Filipino RNs and their dependents with immigrant working visas are scheduled to depart for the U.S.A. on Feb. 20, 2001.

NOTICE TO ALL UMC CANDIDATES ALREADY UNDER-PROCESSED BY IPAMS

ATTEND ON FEBRUARY 10TH (SAT) AT 1:00 P.M. AT IPAMS FOR ORIENTATION AND DISCUSSION WITH UMC AND INTERSTAFF REPRESENTATIVES.

R.N.'s for the United States

CGFNS PASSERS (M/F)

ONLY R.N.'S WITH EXCELLENT SCHOLASTIC RECORD AND MINIMUM OF 2 YEARS EXPERIENCE WITH MAJOR HOSPITALS MUST APPLY

Mr. John Gover *of* INTERSTAFF , INC., a full service staffing provider based in Houston, Texas, will be in Manila together with Mesdames Joyce Timmons and Coleen Smith of UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER commencing Feb. 12th thru 15th to identify qualified candidates.

To take advantage of this opportunity, Metro Manila candidates must personally apply asap or no later than February 13, 2001 by submitting comprehensive resume, school records (diploma, transcript of records), board rating, training certificates, employment credentials, plus two (2) passport photographs to

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IF POSSIBLE, CANDIDATES SHOULD BE TOEFL/ TWE AND TSE PASSERS.
POSSESSION OF A VALID PRC ID AND PASSPORT WILL EXPEDITE PROCESSING.

NO PLACEMENT FEE INVOLVED IN THE PHILS. AND U.S.A.

IPAMS

INDUSTRIAL, PERSONNEL, AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC.
Local Recuitment Division *announces openings in*

WHSMP-PC

WOMEN'S HEALTH AND SAFE MOTHERHOOD PROJECT-PARTNERSHIPS COMPONENT

A PROJECT OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU)

THE WOMEN'S HEALTH AND SAFE MOTHERHOOD PROJECT-PARTNERSHIPS COMPONENT, a programme of the Department of Health with funding support from the European Union (EU) and the Government of the Philippines (GOP) aimed at strengthening women's health at community level is urgently in need of:

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

To assist the Regional Co-Managers as part of the management team in the overall planning, coordination, monitoring and implementation of the community-based development components of the Project including preparation of work plans, budgets, reports and documents. The candidates must have a background in community development, preferably in a national or regional non-government organization (NGO). Good coordinating skills and experience in negotiating and in facilitating project activities at all levels with government and non-government institutions. Familiarity with the region and with one or more local dialects. Knowledge of and experience in Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) methodologies are essential. The candidates must have a minimum of 3 years experience in active field-based community development with special emphasis on team leading and team building. The successful candidate will be based in Regional Office - CARAGA Region

INCENTIVES ARE: Basic salary equivalent to SG 22, 13th month pay, cash gift, annual leaves, plus others.

INTERESTED APPLICANTS ARE INVITED TO PERSONALLY APPLY SOONEST (WITH COMPREHENSIVE RESUME, 2 X 2 PICTURES, EDUCATIONAL/EMPLOYMENT CREDENTIALS) NOT LATER THAN CLOSING DATE: **FEBRUARY 9, 2001.**

IPAMS
Local Recruitment Division
(Confer with Vic Bautista and Ernie Lectura)

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- Van Drivers : At Least 1 Year Experience with Mazda / Canter Vans

COMPUTER PROGRAMMERS • TECHNICIANS
- Knows Windows NT, FoxPro, Visual FoxPro and Networking

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS • SALES SECRETARIES
- Salary will match Experience / Training Provided

Please send your Resume with 2" x 2" ID Photo, Transcript of Records or Diploma, NBI Clearance and Contact Telephone to :

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
86 Libertad Street, Mandaluyong City

An international development NGO is recruiting **qualified and experienced Filipino volunteers** for placements in Africa, Asia, Eastern and Central Europe. These men and women will be working alongside disadvantaged people such as the poor, the physically weak, vulnerable, and isolated groups. By sharing their skills, volunteers build the capabilities of local organizations and communities—and thus, help change their lives.

Volunteers spend two years in another developing country where they are most needed. Their allowance will allow them to live comfortably in a modest way. However, they cannot expect to save any money to cover financial obligations or to support dependents back home.

Are you interested?

We are looking for the following professionals:

- **Health**: doctors, occupational and physiotherapists, health educators
- **Natural resources**: foresters, environmentalists
- **Business and social development**: NGO programme managers, community development workers, micro-enterprise and credit advisers

Applicants must be

- Aged 25 to 68
- With at least 3 years relevant work experience
- Willing to work overseas for 2 years
- In good health
- Committed to development work

You must have a good command of the English language.

If you think you have the experience, the personal qualities, and skills to share, please send your comprehensive resumé and a letter explaining why you want to volunteer with us to:

The Volunteer Programme Co-ordinator
P.O. Box No. 1589, Makati Central Post Office
1255 Makati City

Deadline for submission of applications is **March 2nd 2001**. To maximize resources towards development, we will respond only to suitable applications.

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Proven track record and 8 to 10 years experience. A knowledge of Mechanical and Electrical Services in the Construction Industry is essential.

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- Male or Female between 19-30 years old
- Must be a high school graduate
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Send or fax application/resumé and latest ID picture to ALD INC. Telefax 7128914 or 7401161 or call for an appointment to apply in person at telephone nos. 7311964 or 7401162.

Look for Mrs. Ramos

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is in need of the following:

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- with experience
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ONE OF OUR CLIENT HOSPITAL IN TEXAS, USA WITH 326 BEDS CAPACITY IS IN NEED OF 50 REGISTERED NURSES WITH CGFNS AND TOEFL CERTIFICATE

PRE-SCREENING IS SCHEDULE ON FEB. 01-02 AND 03 AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS. BRING YOUR PASSPORT, 2x2 PICTURE-6 PCS., CERTIFICATE AND DIPLOMA.

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THIS AD IS APPROVED BY POEA.

Wanted Programmers

Explore your Programming Ability
Japanese software company is hiring

☐ Programmers with experience in **Web related software development**

☐ Programmer with knowledge in **JAVA & C++**

Qualifications:

1. Graduate of any BS Degree excelling in computer related career (programming)
2. Male or Female
3. Knowledge of the Japanese language is an advantage

Bring resumé with recent 2x2 picture, copy of Transcript of Records and other supporting papers.

Note: Application without any of the above requirements shall be void.

System for Information Tech., Inc. (SFIT)
Unit 701 Tektite Tower PSE Center
7th Floor, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605
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- **BS MECHANICAL ENGINEER / BS ECE**
- **BSC ACCOUNTING MAJOR**

Single
Female not over 27 years old
Graduate from a reputable college or university
(Fresh graduates are welcome)
With or without experience
Willing to be trained
With good working attitude

*Those who are seeking for a stable job you may send your comprehensive resumé with recent photo to the following address on or before **February 10, 2001:***

Human Resources Department
SCOPRO OPTICAL CO., INC.
2nd Floor Boncraft Bldg., Mayon corner Pinatubo Streets
Mandaluyong City

We are a growing Multinational Company engaged in direct sales of Nutritional Supplements. We are sourcing applicants for the following position:

DISTRIBUTOR SUPPORT OFFICER

Directly reporting to Sales and Marketing Director. The candidate should have good people relation skills; excellent presentation skills with experience in training various groups of audience; high level of commitment and motivation.

A knowledge of Network Marketing is essential. Should be willing to travel nationwide even on weekends.

Please send your application letter and resumé with references and contact number to:

NUTRITION SUPPLEMENTS
P.O. BOX 1846
Makati Central Post Office
1258 Makati City
Attn: The Operations & Administrative Manager

A Japanese Company needs:

FINANCIAL PLANNERS: ages 21-40, college graduate, good moral character and with the determination to earn more.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY: ages 25-35, college graduate, computer literate and good command of English.

Allowance **P 7,000** up **plus** fringe benefits

Bring your resumé and apply personally at **3rd Floor, Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Avenue, Makati**

LOOK FOR: PIA MACABUAG-8173481 to 83
Interview dates: Jan. 29 - Feb. 2, 2001

PLAN
INTERNATIONAL
PHILIPPINES

VACANCY NOTICE

PLAN International is a humanitarian, child focused, international, non-governmental organisation. In the Philippines, PLAN works directly with around 600 barangays, from 1 urban and 15 rural Programme Units, situated in Luzon and the Visayas. Opening of Mindanao programme areas is underway.

PLAN works with children, families, communities, GO and NGO partners to achieve lasting improvements in the quality of life of disadvantaged children through the implementation of integrated child-centered community development programmes. PLAN intends to hire the following:

COUNTRY COORDINATOR FOR HEALTH
(Code: CC - for Health)

The Country Health Coordinator reports directly to the Program Support Manager and is a member of the Philippine Programme Quality Team. He/She is responsible for the conceptualisation and design of the Country Health Programme in the Philippines including the systems of quality control, monitoring and evaluation and integration with other programs. He/She is also responsible for providing support to Health Programme planning, implementation and human resource development of the Programme Units. Specifically, he/she is tasked to:

- Facilitate the development of health-related programmes working closely with field staff, children and communities.
- Provide technical supervision and support in the implementation of health programmes in the field.
- Provides leadership to the Philippine Health Team/Technical Network.
- Coordinate with partner organisations/entities at local and national level for related activities and issues.
- Manage Grant-funded Projects.
- Participate in Regional and International activities.
- Facilitate learning by communities, partners and PLAN in health.

We are looking for a candidate with:

- At least 5 years experience in the management of community and public health programmes, some of which should have preferably been spent with international NGO's.
- A background on health or related profession (Doctor, Nurse, Nutritionist, Public Health, etc.).
- Good conceptual skills and demonstrable writing and verbal communication skills.
- Experience in negotiating with executive bodies and the DOH.
- Ability to work well in a team and independently.

PROGRAMME SUPPORT MANAGER
(Code PSM)

A member of the Country Management Team, the PSM reports directly to the Country Director and is primarily responsible for the achievement of the programme-related goals of the Country Strategic Plan (CSP). Specifically, the PSM will be tasked to:

- Lead a technical team and programme networks in the development of various PLAN Philippines programme approaches, standards and protocols.
- Facilitate the development of field work processes for Child Centered Community Development (CCCD).
- Facilitate the development and implementation of Country specific monitoring and evaluation systems, including participatory techniques for use by the community.
- Provide support to the programme units in their overall implementation of the CSP and the CCCD.
- Forge linkages with other organisations and undertake initiatives which enhance programme quality and learning by community, partners and PLAN.

We are looking for a candidate with:

- At least 5 years experience in a senior capacity in programme management (including monitoring and evaluation systems).
- Experience in working with international NGOs.
- Good networking skills and the ability to influence people.
- Demonstrated commitment to work with children and poor communities.
- Knowledge of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).
- A thorough understanding of the political, social and economic environment of the Philippines.
- Good conceptual skills and demonstrated writing and verbal communication skills.
- Background in at least some of the following areas: health, education, child rights promotion and participation, credit and savings, natural resource management, community capacity building.

Both the PSM and the CC-GUH will be based at the Country Office and are expected to travel considerably to PLAN's programme areas in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao and occasionally outside the country.

A competitive remuneration package plus a career growth opportunity with one of the world's largest international development agencies await the successful candidates.

Interested applicants are requested to submit their letter of application with their comprehensive resumé (indicating vacancy code) not later than ***February 7 for the PSM position*** and ***January 31, 2001 for the CC-GUH*** addressed to:

The HRD Manager
PLAN International Philippines
MCPO Box 1875 Makati City, 1258
E-mail: umayamg@plan.gels.com

Only qualified applicants will be notified.

URGENTLY NEEDED ENGINEERS/SPECIALISTS

A progressive consulting firm with international contracts is in need of the following engineers/specialists for the detailed engineering and construction supervision of major roads project with sabo dam construction, and an international airport projects:

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- LOCATING ENGINEERS
- HIGHWAY ENGINEERS
- ROAD PAVEMENT ENGINEERS
- GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERS
- QUANTITY/COST ENGINEERS
- DRAINAGE ENGINEERS
- CONTRACTS ADMINISTRATION SPECIALISTS
- PLANNER/TIME SCHEDULERS
- QUALITY CONTROL/ ASSURANCE SPECIALISTS
- PROCUREMENT SPECIALISTS
- C.E. FIELD INSPECTORS
- AUTO CAD OPERATORS
- AIRPORT PLANNER/DESIGN ENGINEERS
- AIRPORT ARCHITECTS
- CIVIL ENGINEERS
- SANITARY ENGINEERS
- STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS
- RUNWAY PAVEMENT ENGINEERS
- ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS
- MECHANICAL ENGINEERS
- COST/QUANTITY ENGINEERS
- COMMUNICATIONS ENGINEERS
- AIR NAVIGATION SYSTEMS SPECIALIST
- FIRE AND RESCUE SPECIALISTS
- FUEL FARM SPECIALISTS
- ENVIRONMENTALISTS

Applicants must have a minimum of 15 years experience in their respective fields of expertise. Preference will be given to those with overseas experience and knowledge of Bahasa language.

Interested applicants may send their detailed Curriculum Vitaé with photocopies of college diploma, professional license certificate, seminars/trainings (if any), 2"x2" picture with contact address and telephone numbers to:

Philippine Daily Inquirer
c/o Box. No. KA-002-OIPT
G/F Trinity Building
636 TM Kalaw Street
Ermita, Manila

URGENT HIRING for Makati Office

- **RETIRED JUDGES/LAWYERS** for part time job to write court pleadings. Male/Female
- **Ret. MILITARY OFFICERS** (Male) (Part time)
- **ACCTG. CLERKS:** pref. female exposed to SSS/BIR/PAG-IBIG/PHILHEALTH requirements / experienced in Payrolling/Billing from a Manpower agency.
- **STENOGRAPHERS** (Female) for MIAA Legal Office. All are preferrably computer literate.

Call Tel. Nos. 844-4547/843-3989/729-2841

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Send your resumé to
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Makati City 1223
Tel. No. 844-3039

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We are searching for interested PARTIES/SUPPLIERS who will supply our local and regional PET bottle requirements.

The company should meet the following requirements:

- Financially stable
- Employs world class technology
- Can meet our Product Quality Standards
- Implements Good Manufacturing Practices
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Kindly send your Letter of Intent not later than February 9, 2001 and address it to:

Ms. Nelcita L. Garcia
Supply Department
Johnson & Johnson (Philippines), Inc.
P.O. Box 2007, MCPO, Makati City

URGENTLY NEEDED

ACCOUNTING CLERKS

✓ Female
✓ Major in Accounting
✓ With experience in accounting and secretarial work
✓ Computer literate

Apply in person with your resumé, transcript of records, certificate of employment and latest picture at:

ROMA CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
U-B G/F Gardenville Condominium, Sta. Mesa, Manila
(at the back of S.M. Centerpoint Carpark)
Tel. No. 716-6959 and 716-6931

A Publicly listed Corporation is in need of an

ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR

Preferably a Certified Public Accountant
With at least three (3) years experience gained from an auditing company
Can Prepare Financial Statements
General Bookkeeping knowledge
Willing to start immediately
Familiar with MS Word and Excel Applications
Police and NBI cleared

Please come in person. Bring comprehensive bio-data, 2 x 2 picture, Transcript of records, NBI and Police clearance.

Interview with Atty. Agnes Lopez-Villano:
Jan. 29 & 31 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
35th Foor, Rufino Pacific Tower
6784 Ayala Avenue, Makati City

THE SEED MONTESSORI
is now accepting applicants for:

ELEMENTARY & HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

BSE, BSEED GRADUATES AND GRADUATING STUDENTS MAY APPLY

Send credentials with photo to:
4 Samonte St., Don Antonio Heights,
Capitol District, Quezon City 1127

URGENTLY NEEDED

PROJECT MANAGERS
preferably CE or AR, licensed, with at least 15 years actual experience in supervision of buildings, civil works or industrial structures

QUALITY CONTROL ENGINEER
CE, preferably licensed with minimum of 10 years practical experience in quality control for buildings and civil works projects

PROPERTY MANAGER
preferably male, college graduate with practical experience in selling, leasing, operation and maintenance of condominiums and other real properties

PROJECT COORDINATORS
CE, AR or EE, licensed and with at least 8 years actual experience in management, job scheduling and quantity surveys of buildings and civil works projects

PROJECT ENGINEERS
CE, AR or EE, licensed with at least 10 years actual supervisory experience

CADET ENGINEERS
CE, AR or EE, preferably licensed, computer-literate and willing to undergo training in designs and construction management

Apply at **JDBEC, INC., Room 511 Doña Felisa Syjuco Building, Remedios Street corner Taft Avenue, Malate, Manila. E-mail: jdbec1@I-manila.com.ph**. Bring bio-data, proofs of education, previous employment and experience. Previous applicants need not re-apply.

A Leading and Reputable Watch Company is in need of:

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Qualified applicants must mail their resumés with detailed job description and 2" x 2" ID photo to:

P.O. BOX 1811
MAKATI CENTRAL POST OFFICE
MAKATI CITY

NOW HIRING

BOOKKEEPERS

- BS COMMERCE (Major in Accounting)
- Working knowledge of Excel
- Not more than 35 years old

ACCOUNTING CLERKS

- College graduate (preferably Accounting graduate)
- Working knowledge of Lotus or Excel

Bring Resumé, ID pictures, Transcript of Records, SSS and TIN Number.

Qualified applicants may apply personally at:

ADIA MERCHANDISING CORPORATION
585 Int. J.P. Rizal Street, Lamuan, Marikina City
Tel. No. 941-1487, 942-0080.
Look for Tess/Jane

WANTED

SALES ENGINEER / REP.
COST ESTIMATOR
PROJECT ENGINEER / COORDINATOR

Must be : Single, Male or Female, at least 2 years experience, hardworking, honest
Apply at : 111-C 6th Street between 6th and 7th Avenue Kalookan City or CALL at 362-1762

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computer literate
(with or without experience)

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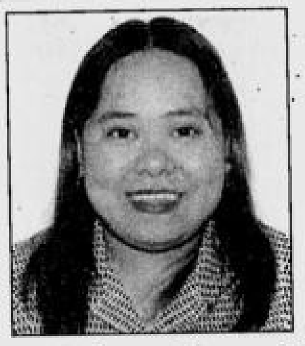

This is to inform the public that **RUMELIA DE TORRES RIVERA, former Stock/Cash Custodian of Union Ajinomoto, Inc.**, and whose picture appears above, has a standing **WARRANT OF ARREST** issued by the Honorable Judge Gregorio A. Consulta of the RTC, 5th Judicial Region, Branch 4, Legazpi City, for ESTAFA.
(Criminal Case No. 9037)

(PDI -- Jan. 28, 2001)

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January 29 (Monday) 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM	**San Fernando, La Union** Oasis Country Resort Tel. No. 242-5621
January 30 (Tuesday) 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	**Baguio City** CAP Building, Post Office Loop Tel. No. 444-8195
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM	**Prince Plaza Hotel** Tel. No. 442-5082
February 1 (Thursday) 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM	**Cebu City - Cebu Plaza Hotel** Tel. No. 231-1231
February 2 (Friday) 9:00 AM - 12:00 NN	**Cebu City - Cebu Plaza Hotel**
February 6 (Tuesday) 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM	**Manila - Heritage Hotel**
February 7 (Wednesday) 9:00 AM - 12:00 NN	**Manila - Heritage Hotel**

International Nurses Alliance
8 Brittany Lane
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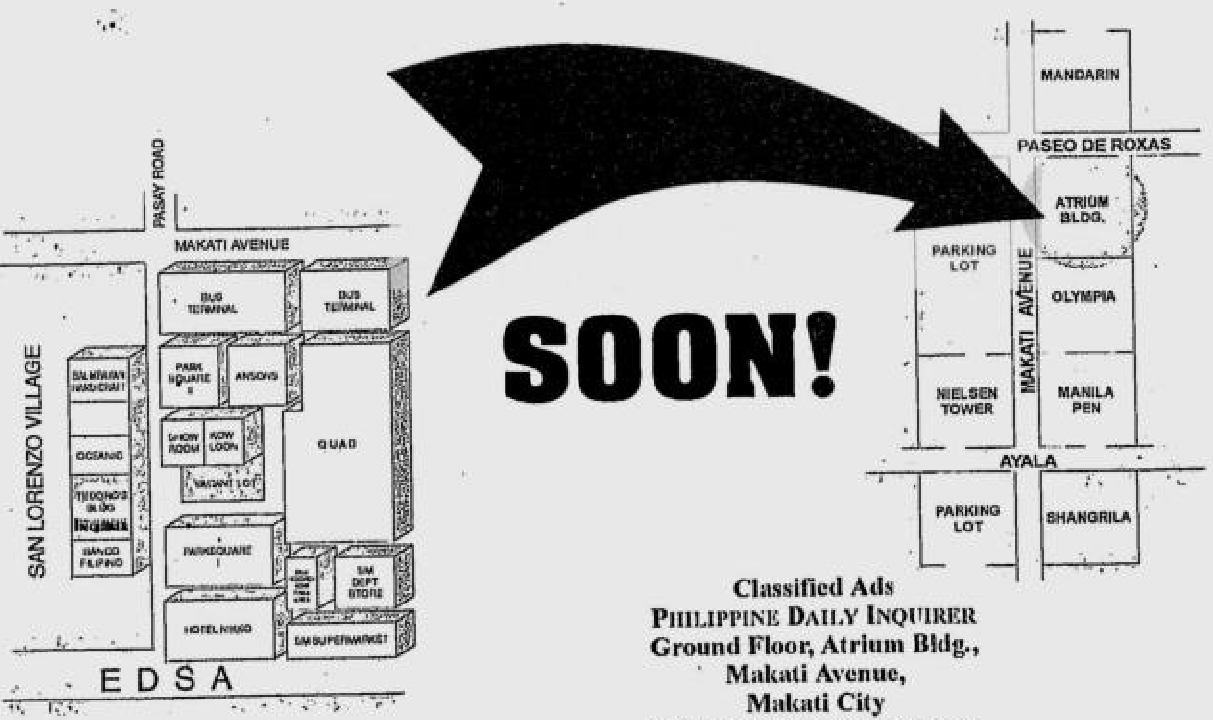

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Makati City
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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE-CARFU
Cordillera Highland Agricultural Resource Management Project
Sto. Tomas Road, Baguio Dairy Farm, Baguio City
Tele/Fax Nos. 444-79-94/444-83-29
PO Box 1158
E-mail: charm@mozcom.com

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

1. The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank in various currencies toward the cost of the **Cordillera Highland Agricultural Resource Management (CHARM) Project** and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to eligible payment under the contract for which this Invitation to Pre-Qualify and to Bid the following heavy equipment:
   a. Three (3) units Road Roller
   b. Three (3) units Dump Truck
2. Requirements for Pre-Qualification:
   a. Letter of Intent
   b. Business Permit
   c. DTI Registration
   d. Latest Income Tax Return
   e. VAT/Non-VAT Registration
3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information at the Project Support Office of CHARM Project, Sto. Tomas Road, Baguio Dairy Farm, Baguio City at telephone numbers (074) 444-7994, (074) 444-8329 and SPCMAD, Room 302, Department of Agriculture, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City at telephone numbers 927-9636 to 39.
4. Submission of Pre-Qualification papers should not be later than 5:00 p.m. on **February 12, 2001** at CHARM-PSO, Baguio City or SPCMAD, Department of Agriculture, Quezon City. Bidding documents to any qualified bidders will be issued on **February 19, 2001** at CHARM Project Support Office.

   A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **February 26, 2001**, 2:00 p.m. at CHARM Project Conference Room and the opening of bids will be on **March 5, 2001**, 2:00 p.m. at CHARM Project Conference Room.
5. A bidders bond equivalent to 2.5% of the total bid price in the form of either cash or managers/cashiers check must be submitted together with the bid.
6. CHARM Project reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part of thereof, waive any defect contained therein and accept offers most advantageous to the Project.

(Sgd.) **EDMUND J. SANA**
DA Assistant Secretary
and SPBAC Chairman

(PDI – Jan. 27, 28 & 29, 2001)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
KAGAWARAN NG KAGALINGANG PANLIPUNAN AT PAGPAPAUNLAD
(DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT)
BATASAN PAMBANSA COMPLEX CONSTITUTION HILLS
QUEZON CITY

January 25, 2001

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), a national government agency, is inviting duly licensed private manpower and janitorial agencies to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of labor, tools/equipment, supplies/materials and supervision for the maintenance and sanitation services of various DSWD office buildings and premises in Metro Manila for a contract period of one (1) year unless sooner terminated.

The determination of eligibility of prospective bidders shall be based on the submission of the following documents as specified hereunder:

A. Legal Documents
   1. DTI/SEC Registration
   2. Business Permits (Mayor's Permit/municipal license)
   3. BIR Value-Added Tax (VAT) Registration
   4. Clearances from the following:
      - Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)
      - National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC)
      - Social Security System (SSS)
      - Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR)
   5. Prospective bidder's statement that his firm is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government office/agency/corporation.

B. Technical Documents - prospective bidder's statement of previous similar contracts completed or on-going in at least the last two years.

C. Financial Documents - Audited Financial Statements, stamped "received" by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, for the last two calendar years.

Each of the above requirements shall be under oath and duly notarized, and shall form part of the duly accomplished application form for eligibility.

Those who have record of unsatisfactory performance or disqualification to participate in public bidding or in any kind of contract with Philippine Government within CY1999 to present need not apply. Cases filed with DOLE, NLRC and SSS should be settled or resolved before the bidding date and bidders must be able to submit clearances issued by concerned agencies. All incumbent service contractors may not participate.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and secure the complete set of Instructions to Bidder and Bidder's Tender Form, upon presentation of a letter of intent starting **January 29** until **February 2, 2001** from Ms. Marcris Jacinto of the Property and Supply Division, 2nd Floor, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City with telephone nos. (632) 9318161, (632)9318101 to 07 local 125, and fax no. (632) 9517116.

Your quotation complete with all the requirements must be received or submitted not later than **February 15, 2001, 9:00 AM**, to Ms. Marcris Jacinto at the above-stated address. Thereafter, eligibility and bid envelopes will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representative(s) who choose to attend. Late quotations will not be accepted. A pre-bid conference will be held on February 6, 2001, 2:00 PM at the Administrative Conference Room, 2nd Floor, DSWD, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City.

DSWD hereby reserves the right to reject any or all applications for eligibility and to bid, to waive any formality therein and/or accept the bid as maybe considered most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **TEODULO R. ROMO, JR., MNSA**
Director, Administrative Service

(PDI – Jan. 27 & 28, 2001)

Republika ng Pilipinas
PANGASIWAAN NG TUBIG AT ALKANTARILYA
SA KALAKHANG MAYNILA
Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City 1105, Philippines

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING:

ELECTRO MECHANICAL FACILITIES ENGINEER

(Contractual Basis) To work on the preparation of documents relative to maintenance of electro-mechanical facilities of a government corporation.

Contact: **Mr. DEXTER SANTILLAN** or **JOJI M. TOLEDO**
Asset Mgmt & Gen. Svcs. Dept. ☎ *928-2252*
Personnel Services Section ☎ *434-1529*

(PDI - Jan 28, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM
Elliptical Road, Quezon City

DAR-Asian Development Bank
Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP)

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The DAR-ADB ARCP is a national level Agrarian Reform Communities (ARC) project addressing rural poverty implemented by the Department of Agrarian Reform supported by a loan from the Asian Development Bank. The Central Project Management Office located at the Ground Floor FAPSO Building, DAR Central Office is pleased to announce the following vacancy:

MDF (Municipal Development Fund) Junior Accountant

The MDF Junior Accountant shall facilitate processing of ARCP rural infrastructure sub-project requirement for the release of funds from the imprest account managed by the MDFO (Municipal Development Fund Office) and the related financial transactions. She/He shall be based at the MDFO and shall maintain coordination with other ARCP Specialists.

The position is open to Certified Public Accountants with at least five (5) years relevant experience. Two years of which is from a government agency.

Functions include financial report preparation based on reports submitted by the implementing agencies, maintenance of subproject ledgers and preparation of disbursement reports. Also, she/he shall assist in the preparation of the project's annual work and financial plan.

All applications shall be addressed to:

ANTOINETTE R. RAQUIZA
Asst. Sec. for Support Services
And Head, National
Selection Committee
Department of Agrarian Reform
Elliptical Road, Quezon City

Attention: **HERMAN Z. ONGKIKO**
DAR-ADB ARCP
Ground Floor FAPSO Bldg.
DAR Central Office
Elliptical Road, Q.C.

Application Requirements: Five (5) sets each of the following:
(a) Application letter
(b) Curriculum Vitaé
(c) Transcript of Records
(d) Personal Data Sheet with latest 2x2 photo

Terms of Reference may be obtained at Ground Floor, FAPSO Building, DAR Central Office, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Our e-mail address: arcppeu@edsamail.com.ph

Applications should be received on or before **February 3, 2001.**

(PDI - Jan 28 2001)

National Mapping and Resource Information Authority
Coast and Geodetic Survey Department
421 Barraca Street, San Nicolas, 1010 Manila

Competitive Entrance Examination for Probationary Ensigns

Date and Place of Examinations: **February 24, 2001, CGSD, NAMRIA at above address.**

Qualifications: **Filipino male graduates of civil, geodetic, chemical, electrical, electronics, mechanical, or computer engineering, not more than 29 years old, and must have passed either the Board Examinations or the Civil Service Career Professional Examinations.**

Send applications to above address on or before **February 19, 2001**, or fax to **02-2422090**. For more particulars, call Lcdr. Romeo I. Ho at tel. no. **2422955** (direct) and **2413494** to **97** local **104.**

(PDI - Jan 26 & 28 2001)

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Intramuros, Manila

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) shall undertake an annual pre-qualification of prospective bidders for the supply of the following:
1. Office Supplies
2. Computer Supplies
3. Construction and Electrical Supplies
4. Computer Equipment (Hardware and Software)
5. Air-conditioner Equipment
6. Repair and Maintenance Service:
   - Computer
   - Air-conditioner
   - Typewriters
   - Service and Utility Vehicles
7. Printing Services

The prospective bidders are required to submit on or before February 15, 2001 to the Pre-qualification, Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC) Pre-qualification Secretariat, Cash Division (CD), 2nd Flr., DOLE Building, Intramuros, Manila, the following pre-qualification data/documents:
1. Current Business Mayor's Permit
2. SEC Registration/CDA Registration/BDT Registration of Business Name
3. Articles of Incorporation/Partnership, Articles of Cooperation in case of Cooperatives
4. By-Laws
5. Financial Statements for the past 2 years with corresponding Income Tax Returns certified by an Accountant and which bear the imprint of the BIR as proof that the same had been submitted to the BIR for tax purpose as well as the corresponding Official receipt.
6. SSS Registration Certificate
7. VAT Registration Certificate
8. Company Profile (including the year the company started operations)
9. Company Organization Chart
10. Bio-Data of Key/Technical Personnel with corresponding years of experience
11. List of sample clients or projects completed, their addresses, telephone numbers including contract amount
12. Bank certificates as to Fund Balances
13. Notarized Certificate/Board Resolution of Authorized Signatory to Bid Documents

Bidders who have already submitted and updated the above documents need not submit the required documents again.

The pre-qualification data submitted by the prospective bidders are to be used in determining, according to the PBAC's sole judgment and discretion, the eligibility and competence of the prospective bidders. The bidders in submitting their qualifications for review, waive any claim against the Department that may arise with respect to any adverse decision that may be rendered thereon.

Only those pre-qualified shall be allowed to join the biddings on the said items to be conducted within this year.

The DOLE reserves the right to pre-qualify or to disqualify any prospective bidder without thereby incurring any obligation to the affected bidders.

(Sgd.) **ROSALINDA DIMAPILIS-BALDOZ**
Undersecretary and
Chairman, Pre-qualification, Bids
and Awards Committee

23 January 2001

(PDI – Jan. 28 & 31, 2001)

CAGAYAN II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Rizal St., Aparri, Cagayan
Tel. No. 888-2173
Telefax No. 888-2308

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

A. CAGELCO II is inviting all interested dealers to pre-qualify and to bid for the supply and delivery of the following materials:
DX Transformers, Hardwood Poles, Concrete Poles, Conductors, DX Line Materials.

B. Application for pre-qualification must be submitted to the PBAC Chairman, Mrs. Blandina Y. Madamba at the address given above or may be faxed to the same together with the following pre-qualification requirements: a) BIR-VAT Certificate; b) Business Permit; c) Registration; d) Latest ITR; e) Company Profile; d) List of Clients for a period of three (3) years (if applicable).

C. Deadline for submission, **February 12, 2001.**

D. CAGELCO II reserves the right to reject any/or all bid, waive any defect or informality therein, or accept any bid/s or offer/s which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the cooperative.

E. Pre-conference and Bidding schedules shall be announced to all pre-qualified bidders.

F. Additional information may be furnished upon request.

(Sgd.) **GABRIEL A. TORDESILLAS**
General Manager

Note: For the extension of lateral lines in some barangays within the municipalities of Lallo and Aparri of the province of Cagayan. (Subsidy allocation from Hon. Congressman JACK ENRILE).

(PDI - Jan 28 & Feb 4 2001)

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OBITUARIES

"I am
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praying
for the
world,
but for
those
you
have
given
me, for
they are
Yours."
John 17:9

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-NO MORE LONG PROCESSION-
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640-2145 OR 640-2975

Message of Thanks

We, husband **Venancio**; children & grandchildren of the late

ROSA E. GALVEZ

who passed away peacefully
on January 23, 2001

wish to express our deepest gratitude to relatives, friends, sympathizers who shared with us in our great loss.

"Katawang lupa lamang ang mawawala ngunit ang ala-ala at pagmamahal ay mananatili sa aming piling."

WE DESIGN OBITUARIES FOR FREE

He left us all with his legacy, a humble, simple life, a loving husband, a responsible father and an ample provider, dedicated to his work

Atty. Jose K. Castillo Lee

October 23, 1934 - January 25, 2001

His bereaved wife **Mely**; children **Jeff** and **Leila**, **Jerome & Mel**, **J. Patrick & Olive**, **Jonathan**, **Joyce**; grandchildren **Natasha Denise & Jacqueline**; brothers **Donato, Larry, Manny, Henry & Tomas**; sisters **Anita & Linda**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, January 31, 2001, Masses will be held everyday at 7:00 p.m.

Loyola memorial chapels, inc.

Loyola Crematorium

EDSA corner Bernardino Street, Guadalupe Viejo, City of Makati, Metro Manila, Philippines
Tel. Nos.: 895-1011 to 19; 895-0797; 895-8868; 896-3588; 890-0945; Fax Nos.: 895-8868; 895-3588; E-mail: lmci@i-manila.com.ph

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Loyola Memorial Park Chapels & Crematory Services, Inc.

Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Avenue, Tanong, Marikina City 1800
Tel. Nos.: 941-3196 to 98; 941-3676; Telefax 941-3577

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R.I.P.

TERESA LEGARDA y ROCES

(n. 18 de febrero, 1904)

Falleció en la paz Señor despues
de recibir los Santos Sacramentos,
el sabado, 27 de nero de 2001.
Se halla de cuerpo presente en su residencia,
1153 J.P. Laurel, San Miguel, Manila.
El entierro se verificara El lunes,
29 de enero, en el panteon de la familia
en el Cementerio del Norte despues
de la misa de las 9:00 a.m. en
la Iglesia de San Miguel, Manila.
Su desconsolada familia: hermano
Jose y cuñada Rosario,
sobrinos, sobrinos-nietos y
demas parientes ruegan al piedoso
lector una obracion por su
eterno descanso.

MOISES TABIOS GUERRERO

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on January 25, 2001 at the age of 87.

His wife **Magdalena T. Guerrero** (deceased); children **Maria Teresa, Raul, Diana, Ana Maria** and **Adriano**; children-in-law **Leonard L. Bissonnette, Veronica V. Guerrero, Renato R. Martinez** and **Socorro A. Cabonce**; grandchildren **Francis Albert, Patrick James, Raul Joffre** and **Nikki Olivette, Marie Kristine, Raymond, Reginald, Patricia Teresa, Juan Miguel, Maria Cristina**; great granddaughter **Bianca Ysabel**; brothers, sisters, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, other relatives; and friend **Linda**, request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the White Plains Chapel,
10 Nathan Road, White Plains, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, January 30, 2001 at the
Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina following the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Cecilia H. Catalan

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on January 22, 2001 at the age of 66.

Her brother **Bayani Bautista**; children **Graciela, Star Marie** and **Miguel**, relatives and friends request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Enriquez Funeral Parlor, Tarlac City and will be transferred to P. Gomez Street, Camiling, Tarlac.

Interment will take place at Camiling North Cemetery, Camiling, Tarlac on January 30, 2001 after the celebration of a Holy Mass at the St. Michael Parish Church at 9:00 A.M.

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In Loving Memory

Hector A. Quijano, Sr.

Tabaco, Albay

who died on January 28, 1981
20th Death Anniversary

His beloved wife **Josefina**; children **Cielo, Hector Jr., Mario, Rebecca, Julio, Jocelyn, Jose, Ricardo, Felipe** and **Antonio**; sons-in-law **Edgardo, Valerio** and **Jun**; daughters-in-law **Pacita, Cecile, Genevie, Elizabeth, Gina, Rosanna** and **Joan**; grandchildren **Chewee, Edward, Gilbert, Ina Maria, Kay Maria, Michael, Matthew, Marc, Andrea, Allan, Tyke, Kirk, Evana, Joseph, Justin, John Paul, Christian, Ginger, Philip, Bryan, Angelina** & **Alexandra**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches:

Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills	6:30 AM
Magallanes Church, Manila, Philippines	10:00 AM
Baclaran Church, Manila, Philippines	11:00 AM
St. John the Baptist, Tabaco, Albay, Philippines	4:00 PM
Edsa Shrine, Edsa, Philippines	6:30 PM
Queen of Apostles, Moorpark Rd., San Jose, CA	9:30 AM
St. Simon Church Grant Avenue, Los Altos, CA	12:00 NN
Residence: 1375 Campbell Dr. Campbell,CA	6:30 PM

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MANAGEMENT & STAFF OF

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SOCIEDAD MUTUA DE CONSTRUCCION Y PRESTAMOS

Announce with deep sorrow the passing of their beloved
Managing Director, Secretary & Counsel

ATTY. MOISES TABIOS GUERRERO

on Thursday, January 25, 2001 at the age of 87.

His remains lie in state at the White Plains Chapel, 10 Nathan Road, White Plains, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, January 30, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina following the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

---

*Eternal life
will
swallow up
that which
can die. God
made us for
this very
reason and
He has given
us the Spirit
as a
guarantee
that we will
live again.*

2 Cor. 4:14

"Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it so much as dawned on man what God has prepared for those who love him."

(Corinthians 2:9)

**We lovingly remember Our Beloved Father
on his Twentieth Death Anniversary**

OSCAR VENTANILLA, SR.

of Cabanatuan City

Holy Masses will be offered on January 29, 2001,
at the following churches:

1.	**Saint Nicholas Tolentine Cathedral** *Cabanatuan City*	All Masses
2.	**Our Mother of Perpetual Help Church** *Cabanatuan City*	All Masses
3.	**Our Lady of Fatima Parish** *Philamlife Homes, Las Piñas, Metro Manila*	All Masses
4.	**Parish of the Holy Sacrifice** *UP Campus, Diliman, Quezon City*	All Masses
5.	**Sta. Maria Della Strada Parish** *Katipunan Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City*	All Masses
6.	**Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary** *Multinational Village, Parañaque, Metro Manila*	All Masses
7.	**St. Basil the Great Church** *Brecksville, Ohio, U.S.A.*	7:00 AM

His surviving children: **Gloria, Oscar Jr., Rogelio,** and **Rosalinda**, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, and grandchildren, request his relatives, friends and the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

BENJAMIN "Benjie" LEDESMA CALALANG, JR.

*Peacefully joined his Creator
on Saturday, January 27, 2001
at the age of 39.*

His loving parents **Ben** (†) and **Tita**; brother and sisters **Benilda, Maben** and **Raffy, Reuben,** and **Tessa**; niece **Andie**; nephew **Santino**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Chapel, Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Interment will be announced later.

WE DESIGN OBITUARIES FOR FREE.

On his ***FOURTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY,***

we lovingly remember

DADDY, YOU ARE
FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS...
SORELY MISSED BY ALL OF US.

ATTY. ROMEO REYES TICZON, SR.

(HUSBAND AND BEST FRIEND OF THE LATE ENCARNACION "NENA" LOVINA)

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*CORPORATE LAWYER, HERBAL SCIENTIST, AUTHOR OF 11 HERBAL MANUALS
AND 1 HERBAL ENCYCLOPEDIA, REALTOR, PHILANTHROPIST*

who died in the Grace of our Lord on January 29, 1997, 12:40 p.m. at the age of 79.

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches tomorrow, January 29, 2001:

St. Francis Parish Church *Shaw Boulevard, Greenhills*	***6:00 AM***
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine Parish *Doña J. Rodriguez St., New Manila, Quezon City*	***6:00 AM***
Sanctuario de San Antonio Parish *McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City*	***6:15 AM***
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Church *Magallanes Village, Makati City*	***6:15 AM***
National Shrine of the Most Holy Rosary *Sto. Domingo, Quezon City*	***6:30 AM***
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish *Kalayaan, Bel-Air II, Makati City*	***6:30 AM***
Immaculate Concepcion Parish *P. Burgos St., Antipolo, Rizal*	***6:30 AM***
Parish of Our Lady of Fatima *Cor. Rodriguez Ave. & Capinpin St., Bangkal, Makati*	***6:30 AM***
Redemptorist Church *Baclaran, Manila*	***6:45 AM***
Malate Catholic Church *2000 M.H. del Pilar, Malate, Manila*	***7:00 AM***
Sanctuario de San Jose *Greenhills, Mandaluyong City*	***7:15 AM***
St. John Bosco Parish *Pasay Road, Makati City*	***7:30 AM***
Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene *Quiapo, Manila*	***5:00 PM***
Harrison Plaza Chapel *2/F, Harrison Plaza Shopping City, Malate, Manila*	***5:30 PM***
Shrine of Mary, Queen of Peace *Our Lady of EDSA, Quezon City*	***5:30 PM***
Mary the Queen Parish *Madison St., Greenhills, San Juan*	***6:00 PM***
Christ the King Parish *Green Meadows Avenue, Quezon City*	***6:00 PM***
Our Lady of The Assumption Parish *Asuncion St., Malate, Manila*	***6:15 PM***

The CHILDREN, IN-LAWS, GRANDCHILDREN and GREAT GRANDCHILDREN,

- ***JULIETA***
- ***ROMEO, JR.*** *and LEONY DASCO and their children ROSSANA, ARLENE, VINCENT, ADOLF and JULIUS*
- ***OPHELIA*** *and BENNY CLEMENTE and their daughters JACLYN, RACHELLE and SUZANNE*
- ***OTHELLO*** *and LIZA ROÑO and their children RAYMUND and ABIGAIL, MA. LUISA, MILAGROS, MELISSA, grandchildren TANIA ISABEL and ROMEO III*
- ***BELEN*** *and ANTONIO V. MARTEL, JR. and their daughter ANTONIA*
- ***ROSSINA***
- ***LOURDES*** *and EDGAR MARTIN and their children MIGUEL, ANTONIO and DEIRDRÉ*
- ***PORTIA*** *and RAMON B. SANTOS and their children RAPHAEL, PAULINE and GABRIEL*
- ***RUBEN*** *(deceased),*

STEPMOTHER IN LAW, NELLY MONTILLA VDA. DE LOVINA,

BROTHER, CONRADO,

*BROTHERS IN LAW, TEDDY H. LOVINA
BERT ACOSTA and
NONIE M. LOVINA,*

*SISTERS IN LAW, DING MATIAS Vda. de LOVINA
SYLVIA RICARD-LOVINA
NING LOVINA-VILLAR
NORMA DE GUZMAN Vda. de LOVINA
CHING LOVINA-ACOSTA
ISABEL VALLES-LOVINA and
MARYLOU PRIETO Vda. de LOVINA*

WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND THEIR SINCEREST THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO KEEP HIM IN THEIR PRAYERS.

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PALACE OF MAKATI 2 storey bdrm unfurn wpk studio ffurn w/tel Contact Joti 8970120

Ritz Tower 120T/mo FF 3Tels 4BR 3TB •8928014•

YULO PH w/Grge 823-7716

MANILA

LT 300 Roxas Blvd. 2BR 120SQM Semi Furnished At P25T/MO. Call Maris 637-5237/38 & 651-2924

MANDALUYONG

AYALA HOMES Mandaluyong 2Sty 3BR2TB Call 634-7720

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2Bdrm unfurn wpkg
CHATAU DE BAI 1bdrm facing bay Roxas Blvd. near NAIA
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Moonwalk Thse 15T/mo. 5BR 3TB Tel Grge 8928014

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SAN JUAN

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COM / OFC SPACES
Legaspi Village
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FA 54 to 481 m²
P400-800/sqm (NEG)
8926764 / 8926783

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Alabang Country Club
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RUSH! '99 Accord VTiL MT 7.6Tkm P820T T#434-1398

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98 Grace 280T 731-3492

98 Starex 6377396/6313496

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MERCEDES

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98 MB100D 400T 731-3492

MB100 A1Cond 0919-5745752

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SALES AGENT 718-0640

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Masseuse / Masseur Call Ging 5254486 Pasay City

Ofc Staff 9134470 Mavel

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late • PRISCILLA A. LIQUICIA • was judicially settled by her heirs as per Doc. No. 30 Page 6 Book No XVI Series of 2001 by Atty. Vergel L. Olivarez (PDI-Jan.14,21&28,2001)

Notice is given that the estate of the late Antonio T. Nepomuceno was judicially settled by his heirs as per Doc. No. 476; Page No. 96; Book No. 450; Series of 2001 by Atty. Joel G. Gordola of QC (PDI-Jan. 28, Feb. 4, 11, 2001)

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of the late Virgilio A. Aquino has been extrajudicially settled by and among his heirs per Doc. no. 86; Page no. 10, Book no. 1; Series of 2001 In the Notarial Register of Antonio Malonzo a notary public for Manila PDI-January 14,21 & 28, 2001

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

• NOTICE OF LOSS •

Notice is hereby given that Stock Certificate No. FMFI 12920, 34423, 45084 & Beneficial-PNB Life Insurance Co. Inc. Nos. 5969, 11434, 18410, 25449, 32464, 37089, 37090 has been reportedly lost. Unless an adverse third-party claim is filed with the office of Beneficial-PNB Life Insurance & Filipinas Mutual Finance,a replacement stock certificate will be issued to PABLO T. GONZALES, the stockholder on record as registered owner of the said lost stock certificates to be transferred to EULOGIA Q. GONZALES, the legal wife of the deceased Pablo T. Gonzales *(PDI-Jan.21,28&Feb.4,2001)*

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that **Stock Certificate Nos. FMFI 12920, 34423, 45084 and Beneficial-PNB Life Insurance Co. Inc. Nos. 5969, 11434, 18410, 25449, 32464, 37089, 37090** has been reportedly lost. Unless an adverse third-party claim is filed with the office of Beneficial-PNB Life Insurance & Filipinas Mutual Finance, a replacement stock certificate will be issued to Pablo T. Gonzales, the stockholder on record as registered owner of said lost stock certificate to be transferred to Eulogia Q. Gonzales, the legal wife of the deceased Pablo T. Gonzales (PDI-Jan. 21, 28 and Feb. 4, 2001

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AYALA-SAN JOSE VILLAGE II
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- FRONTING KID'S PLAY PARK
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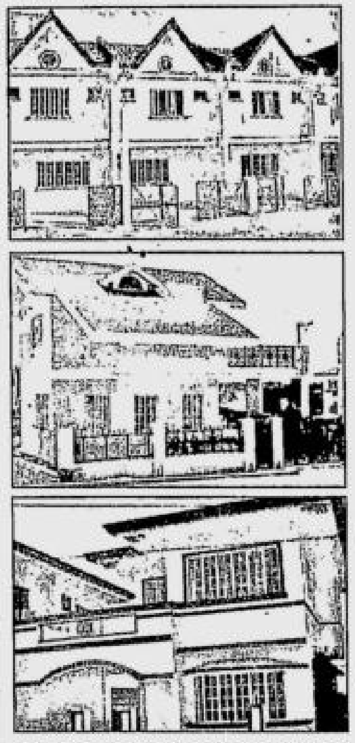

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TWO-STOREY TOWNHOUSE UNIT
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PROPERTY MANAGEMENT AND SALES

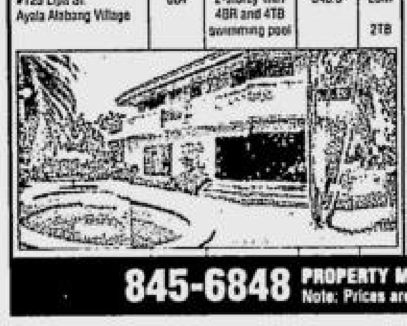
UP FOR SALE DOWN ON PRICE

REAL ESTATE PROPERTIES AT BOTTOM COST

HOUSE & LOTS, TOWNHOUSES & CONDOS

Address	Lot Area	Improvements	Flr. Area	Price
ANGONO				
No 447 Violet St. Rainbow Village Kalayaan	180	1-storey with 3BR and 3TB	121	1.1M
ANTIPOLO				
12 Mocking Bird St. Phase IV, Vista Verde Country Homes	246	2-storey with 5BR and 3TB	246	2.5M
BACOOR, CAVITE				
Blk 1 Lot 18 St. Michael Subd Bo Tabba	300	one-storey with 2BR and 2TB	180	2.2M
BULACAN				
Pulong Buhangin Sta Maria	5764	bungalow with 2BR and 1TB	100	5.5M
1029 Libis St. Saluysoy Meycauayan	856.33	single detached house with 7BR and 7TB	305.5	6.5M
CABUYAO, LAGUNA				
Blk 13 Lot 8 Briliant St. Shineland Village	180	single detached with 2BR and 1TB	157.5	1.2M
CAINTA, RIZAL				
Blk. 9 Lot 1 Mt. Apo cor. Sierra Madre Suburban Heights	200	bungalow with 3BR and 2TB	78	1.1M
No 11 Burnley St. Brookside Hills Subd	285	2-storey with 4BR and 2TB	165	2.2M
CALOOCAN CITY				
9 Malbrust St., Amparo Subd., Novaliches	266	2-storey with 5BR and 3TB	177	1.44M
LAS PIÑAS CITY				
Blk 1 Lot 10 B. Gutierrez St., BF Resort	267	3-storey with 3BR and 2TB	236	2.7M
47 Margie Moran St. BF Resort Village	749	single detached house with 7BR and 5TB	260	5.8M
MANDALUYONG CITY				
23-B Guaventville II M. Cruz St. (Libertad)		condo unit with 2BR and 1TB	58	1M
MANILA				
307-313 Ramirez St. San Nicolas	140	6-storey house/ mezzanine	611	14M
MONTALBAN, RIZAL				
Blk. 5 Lot 3 St. John St. King David Subd	178	1-storey with 4BR and 2TB	72.6	800T
MUNTINLUPA CITY				
#125 Lipa St. Ayala Alabang Village	864	2-storey with 4BR and 4TB swimming pool	548.5	20M 2TB

Address	Lot Area	Improvements	Flr. Area	Price
NOVELETA, CAVITE				
No 360 Int. San Rafael III	417	residential compound (a bungalow with 1BR and 1TB and another 1-storey with basement, 1BR and 1TB	275	1.2M
PARAÑAQUE CITY				
Blk. 5 Lot 1 Emelvic St. Greenheights Subd	1221	bungalow with 4BR and 3TB	285	6M
PASAY CITY				
1988 Taft Office Center Taft Ave. corner P Samonte		residential/ office unit	134	4M
PASIG CITY				
114 Panama cor. Kingston St., Pasig Greenpark	292	single detached with 4BR and 3TB	191	2.14M
Unit 25-7 Crescent Condominium San Miguel Ave		2-level Condo with 3BR and 4TB	307.5	15M
QUEZON CITY				
Unit 3 Ma. Rosario Homes, TS Cruz Subd. Brgy San Agustin Novaliches	36.2	townhouse with 2BR and 1TB	48	500T
Int. Alcantara St. Bonlat, Tandang Sora	276	single detached with 3BR and 2TB	120	1.1M
No. 8 Calalang Compd. Brgy Kaligayahan Novaliches	200	unfinished 3-storey with 9BR and 5TB	439	2.5M
(Blk. S-156 Lot 7) Unit 14 Pointe Alta Townhomes, Samar Ave., West Triangle, Diliman	86	3-storey townhouse with 4BR and 3TB	214	5.4M
SAN JUAN				
Unit 502 Casa Madrid Condominium Villa Pasadena 309 Pasadena Drive*		condominium unit with 3BR and 2TB	122.22	3.76M
SAN MATEO, RIZAL				
Blk 23 Lot 16 Colorado St., Greenland Newtown Subd.	204	Duplex type (1-storey) with 2BR and 1TB/ 3BR and 1TB	132.92	1.5M
STO. TOMAS, BATANGAS				
Sto. Tomas near the Junction	2925	2-storey condominium building (office/display/ stockroom)	338	25M
STA. ROSA, LAGUNA				
Blk. 5 Lot 2 Via Venesa St. Romanville Subd. Sinalhan	160	2-storey house with 4BR and 3TB	93.84	1.6M



845-6848 PROPERTY MANAGEMENT AND SALES HOTLINE
Note: Prices are subject to change without prior notice.

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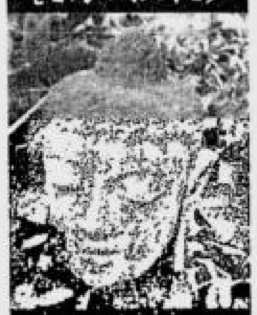
ELEMENTS



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Telephone Nos. 893-1320, 893-6001; Fax No. (632) 817-1241

INVITATION TO SUPPLY

The PNOC Coal Corporation (PNOC-CC) invites interested Chemical Suppliers for the supply of the following Industrial Chemicals:

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2. POTASSIUM NITRATE -	KNO_3, Industrial or Technical Grade, 99.8%,purity, powder form

For further inquiries, please call Mr. George N. Alejandro at telephone no. 893-0232.

(Sgd.) **FERNANDO C. VILLANUEVA**
Chairman
Prequalification, Bidding
and Awards Committee

(PDI – Jan. 28, 2001)

CASIMIRO
TOWNHOMES
Habay, Bacoor, Cavite
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Initial DP: P15,000

WESTVILLE
HOMES
Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P8,000
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810-7183
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ANNOUNCEMENT

Please be informed of our new classified advertising rates effective **February 1, 2001 issue.**

National Classifieds
(National Edition)

Box Ad - P230.00/col. cm.
Line Ad - P 65.00/line
Obituaries - P230.00/col. cm.

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(Metro Manila Edition)

Box Ad - P190.00/col. cm.

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BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
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NOTICE OF OVERSTAYING CARGOES AND THE PUBLIC AUCTION THEREOF

Whereas, the herein described items/goods were separately imported on various dates at the Manila International Container Port, which up to present, no customs import entry has been filed thereon, or such entry has been filed but no further claim/adjudication was made thereto by their respective consignees/ importers, or such rightful claimant within the period fixed by law, to wit:

Location: Con-Pac Warehousing, Inc. Manila

Consignee	Description	Registry	Container
Flocor	Street Drain	APL 030	HLXU 2205552
Pearson Education	Old Books	TMS 015	INBU 3597326
Fotrite Inc.	Soy Sauce	TMS 035	GATU 808269
Danilo Sanches	Motorcycle	APL 134	INBU 3719701
Celestino Salve	Motorcycle	APL 134	INBU 3719701
Rogelio Gajudo	Motorcycle	APL 134	INBU 3719701
Lagera Fernando	Motorcycle	APL 134	INBU 3719701
American Power	Cap Battery	PCI 057	TRIU 9496316
Angono Nat'l High	Computers	APL 143	HDMU 6055867
Dri Epza	Dect Phones	PCL 079	EOLU 4880149
Semirara coal	Spare parts	FJS 177	PONU 7257871
Dole Phil.	Machinery	PCL 082	REGU 4962654
Manila Plastics	Hoststat System	PCL 050	POCU 1052124
Clarchem Inc.	Palmitate	TMA 099	GSTU 3258870

Whereas, the failure of the consignees/importers and such other rightful claimants to claim/adjudicate his/her importation shall be deemed to be a renunciation of all his/her interest and property rights in favor of the government pursuant to Section 1801 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines as amended by R.A. 7651, and be auctioned after ten (10) days from the date of posting/advertisement.

SO ORDERED.

Manila International Container Port, Manila, Philippines, this **25th** day of **January, 2001**.

(Sgd.) **BUENAVENTURA C. MANIEGO**
District Collector of Customs

(PDI – Jan. 28, 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

The public is hereby advised that United Laboratories, Inc. (UNILAB) **Official Receipt Nos. 900722, 900722** to **900750** were reported lost as of **08 October 2000** and have not been found despite diligent search. Accordingly, these receipts are void as to UNILAB and payments made by any person on the basis of said receipts shall not be effective to discharge the obligation of such person to UNILAB unless the payments were actually received by UNILAB.

The Management of United Laboratories, Inc.

TRAVEL
ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO, Editor

'HALA BIRA!'

Revelry in Kalibo

TEXT AND PHOTOS
BY PATRICK C. KIMPO

WE take pride in being the sole Christian nation in Asia. Christianity pervades the many facets of our lives and is manifested in our names, beliefs, customs and traditions, and festivities.

When it comes to festivities, Filipinos never cease to amaze foreigners and their fellow Filipinos alike. Year in and year out, we never seem to run out of reasons to indulge in merrymaking. After the Christmas and New Year celebrations, one needs to count the days only with the fingers before another festivity erupts. January seems to be a prelude to the never-ending season of revelry in the Philippines.

But what stands out in the merry month of January is the Ati-atihan festival held in Kalibo, a town in Aklan province situated on the northeastern portion of Panay Island. Local and foreign tourists flock to this town not just to witness but also to participate in a festival truly beguiling in sight and sound.

RAUCOUS and raunchy, but all in good fun

The Ati-atihan is rooted in a religious and historical context. This colorful *mardi gras* is an annual celebration commemorating the purchase of Panay from the Ati people (Negritos) by 10 Bornean datus who landed on the island in 1212 A.D.

According to the book "Maragtas" written by Pedro A. Monteclaro in 1907, the Bornean datus and their followers left North Borneo (known as Sabah today) to escape the despotic rule of their sultan. After days of sailing, they reached the island ruled by an Ati king, Marikudo.

The datus offered to acquire the low land where their settlements could be built. Marikudo, his wife and their followers agreed to sell. In concluding the agreement, the Atis and the Borneans partook of a sumptuous feast replete with native songs and dances, after which Marikudo and his people bid the Borneans goodbye and settled in their new homes in the mountains.

In 1581, Kalibo was founded. Its name is derived from *sang ka libo*, or 1,000, the number of natives baptized in a single day by a missionary during the Feast of St. John the Baptist.

The feast of the saint, however, is overwhelmed by the Ati-atihan, which is a paean to the Santo Niño, the town's patron saint. Despite the riotous character of the festival, it is actually ensconced in religion as its theme is the devotion to the Santo Niño, the oldest Christian image in our country.

The Santo Niño is believed to have saved Kalibo from Moro raiders in the 17th century. Artillerymen repulsed the raid with the battle cry "*Hala bira* (Hit them)!" Gunpowder smoke blackened their faces, and they emerged from the fighting looking like the dark-skinned *Atis*.

The battle was capped with victorious shouts of "*Viva* Santo Niño!"

The same battle cry and victorious shouts still reverberate through the air during the Ati-atihan, which was first staged in the early 1980s.

The Ati-atihan begins six days before the feast of the Santo Niño. But preparations are made as early as November, mainly through the concerted efforts of the townsfolk of Kalibo. At this stage, themes, programs, costumes and choreography are planned.

Then the big day—or, aptly, the big week—comes. Depending on where one stays in Kalibo during the occasion, the revelry will not be hard to miss because it is concentrated in the streets within the periphery of the church and its plaza. Besides, the rhythmic and deafening beat of drums can be heard from afar, beckoning everyone to join in the fun.

Participants *cum* revelers gather in groups, each with its own set of costumes, motif and brass band. Each group, usually a clan, sociocivic organization, club, or school, among others, is identified by the costume and its name emblazoned on streamers that members carry during the parade.

The groups take different routes, so it is common to see one encountering another coming from the opposite direction along narrow, banner-strewn streets. One group gives way to the other, yet the soot-covered bodies in elaborate costumes seem to mingle, thus creating a spectacular fusion of colors while bands play in loud crescendo.

The musical repertoire? Nothing fancy, with the pieces ranging from the ageless "Hawaii Five-O" theme to Ricky Martin's latest chart-buster, so long as the beat stimulates dancing despite one's tired, aching feet.

> No one can be a mere spectator. Bystanders cannot but be drawn into the frenzy .

The passing of the years brought about changes—say improvements in the costumes. Tribal costumes are still the "in" thing, but other, even bizarre, creations have become acceptable as well. One can just imagine the modernity injected into the festival through the masks and costumes, which can rival those seen in upscale Halloween gatherings. Even the images of the Santo Niño, which are held aloft during the parade, are decked out in costumes similar to those worn by the revelers carrying them.

No one can be a mere spectator during the festivity. Bystanders cannot but be drawn into the mix of revelers as the bands do their thing. Townsfolk use the term *sadsad*, or dancing while walking, in enticing others to join the revelry. Audience participation is what adds to the spectacle.

While the main participants are soot-covered and elaborately dressed, some spectators agree to have their faces painted. The daring ones allow their bodies to be transformed into human canvases and works of art. For the rest, a stripe or two of soot or even neon colors on the face are enough.

The raucous quality of the festival may be attributed to the adrenaline flowing. But it is also probably intensified by the beer booths installed in almost every street along the parade route.

Even before noon, intoxicated revelers are a usual sight (but they seem sufficiently sober to complete a few dance steps). Surprisingly, no acts of violence seem to break out. It's the merriment that holds sway.

The culmination of the Ati-atihan is the feast of the Santo Niño itself, the third Sunday of January.

The day begins with Masses in the Kalibo Cathedral. Then another round of street dancing and general revelry erupts. It lasts until the afternoon, complementing the procession of the images of the Santo Niño dressed in various costumes and motifs and borne by elegantly decorated *carrozas* (carriages).

The *carrozas* are mostly owned and maintained by the families who have planted their roots in Kalibo.

When the tail end of the procession reaches the cathedral toward the evening, it conveys the message that the festivities are about to end. People start to enter the church for the *patapak*, a ritual where a palm-size image of the Santo Niño is held by a lay minister and, as prayers are uttered, rubbed on the part of a person's body that needs healing.

The streets of Kalibo gradually subside into silence as the exhausted but gratified revelers retire for the night.

It was an exhilarating experience for my family to have taken part in the festival last year. We were thankful that our clan, from both the Kimpo and Quimpo sides, managed to organize a grand reunion—attended by relatives from abroad—in the town where we trace our origins and coinciding with such an event as the Ati-atihan.

The sheer size of our clan enabled us to have one of the biggest contingents, contributing to the overflowing number of revelers. It was a doubly rewarding experience for us, one that made our visit truly worth remembering.

(After a week of seemingly endless revelry, what better and practical way to relax, recharge and make the most of one's stay in Aklan than to travel northwest to the province's, or perhaps the country's, great attraction, Boracay? But that, of course, makes an entirely different story.)

FACE and body paint, costumes and head gear in full color and creativity—in celebration of the feast of everyone's beloved Divine Child, the Santo Niño

TRAVEL BRIEFS

Pilgrimage-tour

A 19-DAY Marian pilgrimage tour highlighted by an audience with the Pope at St. Peter's Square in Vatican and a visit to the Vatican Museums and the Sistine Chapel is being organized to mark the Magnificat Year.

Stops include well-known Marian sites such as Fatima in Portugal and Lourdes in France; the St. Mary Majors Basilica in Rome; and the Notre Dame Cathedral and Miraculous Medal chapel of St. Catherine Laboure in Paris.

Pilgrims will also visit Avila, the birthplace of St. Teresa; Lisieux in France, where St. Therese of the Child Jesus grew up, Zamora, Salamanca, the Prado Museum, Santiago de Compostela and Toledo, a small, fortress-city with magnificent cathedrals, in Spain; and famous sites in Rome.

Writer Visitacion "Chit" de la Torre is tour organizer. For inquiries, call 815-4938, 815-6925, EZ 141-101758 or 0918-9159337.

Fast-track service

EMIRATES' first and business class passengers can now speed through all immigration formalities at the Dubai International Airport with its fast-track service.

The new service covers both departures and arrivals.

The airline's first and business class passengers are served at a dedicated immigration desk, with clear signage to smooth their way.

According to Ahmed Khoory, general manager of airport services in Dubai, the new service is just one of a number of improvements being implemented at the airport to enhance overall service.

Tour Expo 2001

THE PHILIPPPINE Travel Agencies Association (PTAA) is geared for the Travel Tour Expo 2001 (TTE 2001) to be held on March 2, 3 and 4 at the Megatrade Halls 1 and 2 of the SM Megamall.

TTE 2001 offers the best of domestic and international tourism, travel and tourism services, facilities, promotion organizations and a variety of travel products.

Annette R. Feliciano, PTAA vice president for administration and TTE 2001 co-chair, expressed high hopes for the success of the group's biggest annual undertaking. "We are now on our eighth year and we expect to be even bigger and better this year," she said.

Feliciano said there would be 207 booths this year, up from last year's 187. "In terms of visitors, in 1999, we had 20,000 and last year, about 30,000. We expect 35,000 this year!" she said.

Bonuses await those who make their travel bookings during the 3-day show. Special awards will be given to exhibitors, including the "Millionaires Club," which is awarded to those who are able to close a deal amounting to P1 million by the end of the Expo.

Valentine treats

FRIENDS and lovers are invited to mark the Day of Hearts at Shangri-La's Traders Hotel Manila, which is offering a Valentine buffet dinner at poolside for P1,800 per couple, inclusive of a glass of red or white wine.

For an overnight stay, one can choose between a superior room (P1,500 per couple) and a Traders Club room (P3,000) with a continental breakfast included.

For inquiries and reservations, call 527-9107 or 523-7011.

* * *

FOR A ROMANTIC getaway, Subic International Hotel is offering an overnight rendezvous for two inclusive of breakfast and dinner for P2,500. Those who book a minimum of two rooms get another overnight stay absolutely free.

Ballroom dancing enthusiasts can check out "Valentine Ballroom Nights" on Feb. 13 and 14 at the hotel's Seafront Restaurant, with a specially prepared meal for two, for P1,700.

Call 843-7794 in Olongapo City for reservations.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

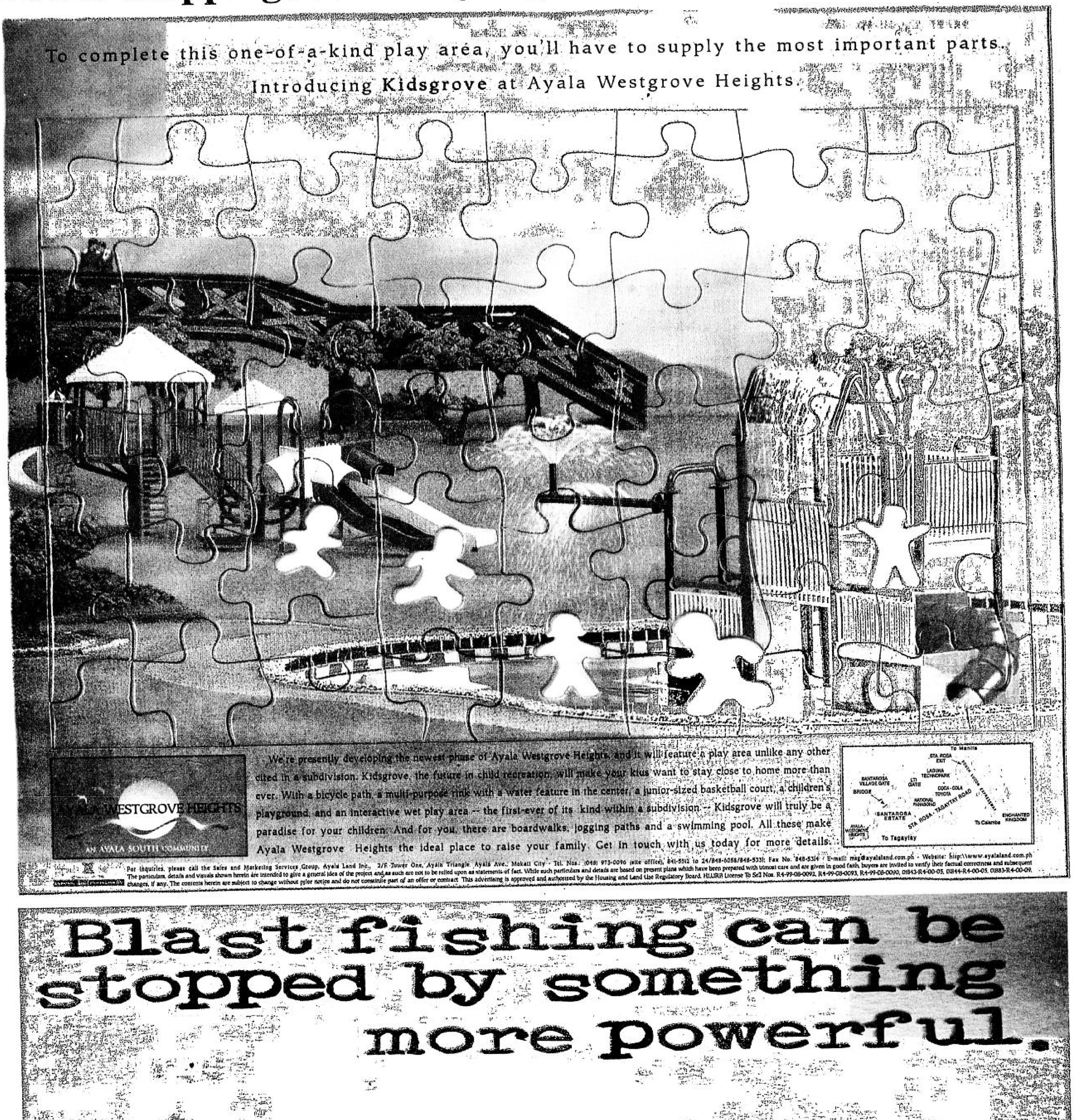
STAND PROUD
Witness the BEST of Filipino
and International talent in
Miss Saigon
CCP MAIN THEATER
Tuesday-Sunday 8pm
Saturday-Sunday 2pm, 8pm
TICKETS AT ALL TICKET WORLD OUTLETS 8915610
CCP BOX OFFICE 8323704
Groups of 20 or more: 4007844, 9221740 • 4332226

Power shopping

(Story on page C8)

Style quiz

(On page C10)


To complete this one-of-a-kind play area, you'll have to supply the most important parts.

Introducing Kidsgrove at Ayala Westgrove Heights.

We're presently developing the newest phase of Ayala Westgrove Heights, and it will feature a play area unlike any other cited in a subdivision. Kidsgrove, the future in child recreation, will make your kids want to stay close to home more than ever. With a bicycle path, a multi-purpose rink with a water feature in the center, a junior-sized basketball court, a children's playground, and an interactive wet play area -- the first-ever of its kind within a subdivision -- Kidsgrove will truly be a paradise for your children. And for you, there are boardwalks, jogging paths and a swimming pool. All these make Ayala Westgrove Heights the ideal place to raise your family. Get in touch with us today for more details.

AYALA WESTGROVE HEIGHTS
AN AYALA SOUTH COMMUNITY

For inquiries, please call the Sales and Marketing Services Group, Ayala Land Inc., 2/F Tower One, Ayala Triangle, Ayala Ave., Makati City - Tel. Nos.: (046) 975-0096 (site office), 841-5512 to 24/848-6056/848-5331; Fax No. 848-5314 - E-mail: msg@ayalaland.com.ph - Website: http:\\www.ayalaland.com.ph
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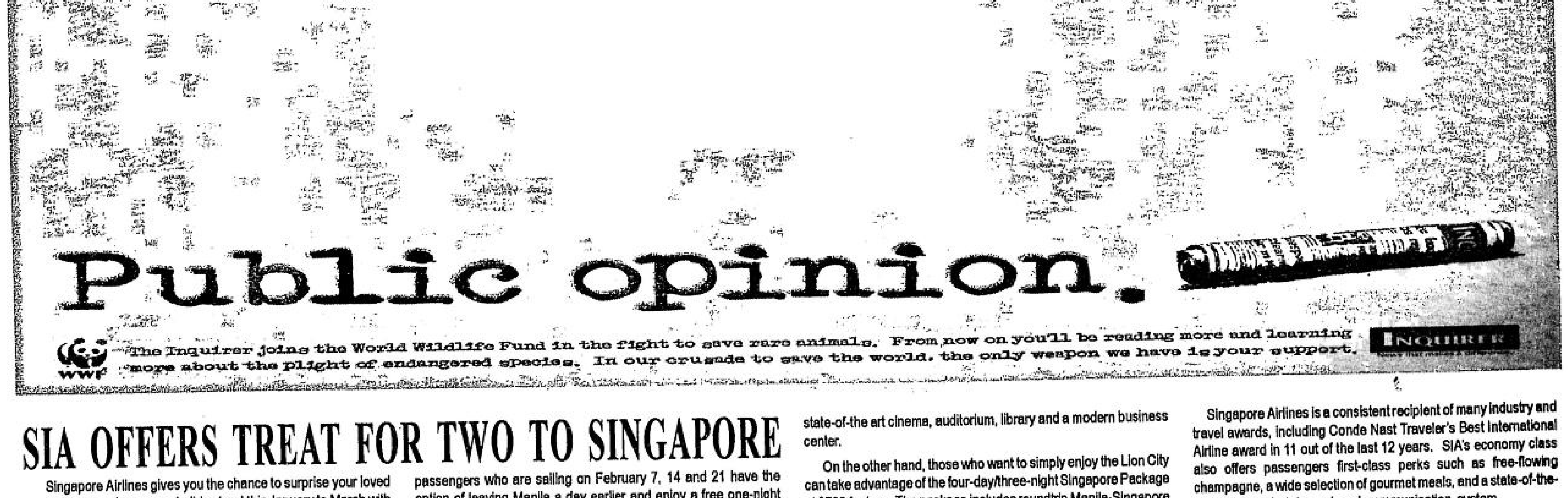

Blast fishing can be stopped by something more powerful.

Public opinion.

The Inquirer joins the World Wildlife Fund in the fight to save rare animals. From now on you'll be reading more and learning more about the plight of endangered species. In our crusade to save the world, the only weapon we have is your support.

WWF

INQUIRER

SIA OFFERS TREAT FOR TWO TO SINGAPORE

Singapore Airlines gives you the chance to surprise your loved ones with an early summer holiday treat this January to March with two exciting tour offerings in and around New Asia.

Avail of an exotic three-day/two-night Cruise Package from Singapore to Kuala Lumpur and the popular coastal town of Port Dickson in Malaysia on-board the SuperStar Virgo, a premiere luxury floating resort. Priced at only $999 for two persons, the package includes roundtrip Manila-Singapore economy airfare on Singapore Airlines, cabin accommodation and full-board meals. Cruise departs every Wednesday. As a Valentine treat, passengers who are sailing on February 7, 14 and 21 have the option of leaving Manila a day earlier and enjoy a free one-night stay in Singapore, together with hotel accommodation and airport/hotel transfer.

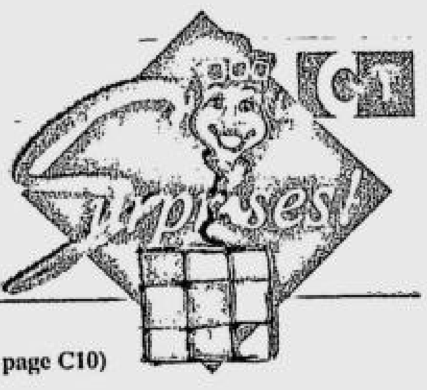
SuperStar Virgo is the newest and largest mega-ship in the Asia-Pacific region. The pride and joy of Star Cruises, it can accommodate up to 2,000 passengers, and has a variety of facilities for non-stop entertainment, dining, sports and business activities. The luxury liner features 16 restaurants and food outlets, gym and spa, swimming pools, fun and game arcades, discos, state-of-the art cinema, auditorium, library and a modern business center.

On the other hand, those who want to simply enjoy the Lion City can take advantage of the four-day/three-night Singapore Package at $799 for two. The package includes roundtrip Manila-Singapore economy airfare on Singapore Airlines, hotel accommodation, daily breakfasts, roundtrip airport/hotel transfers, and a choice of three of the following: the City Experience Tour, Singapore River Boat Tour, and admissions to the Singapore Zoological Gardens, Night Safari, Jurong Bird Park, Underwater World (Sentosa) and Images of Singapore (also in Sentosa). The first 300 passengers of this package can claim a free limited edition Swatch watch.

Singapore Airlines is a consistent recipient of many industry and travel awards, including Conde Nast Traveler's Best International Airline award in 11 out of the last 12 years. SIA's economy class also offers passengers first-class perks such as free-flowing champagne, a wide selection of gourmet meals, and a state-of-the-art inflight entertainment and communication system.

The above packages are valid from January 16 to March 21, 2001. Book early for your choice of departure dates. For more details or to make your bookings on the Cruise Package, please contact your travel agent. For the Singapore Package, you may call your travel agent or the SIA Tours Desk at 751-5151/52 or 810-4960 extension 4005/4006.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2001
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday LIFESTYLE
CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor



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(Story on page C8)

Style quiz

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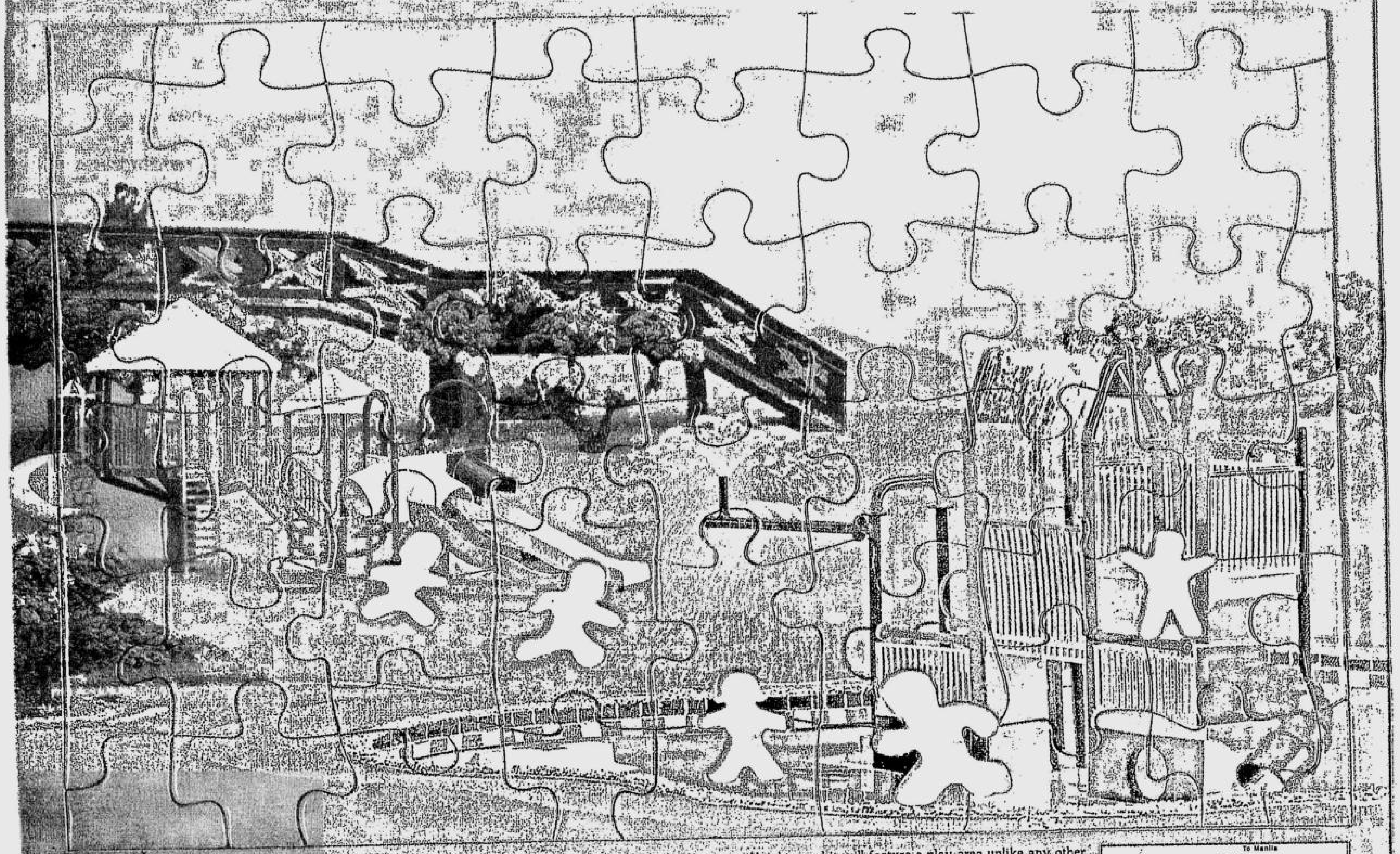

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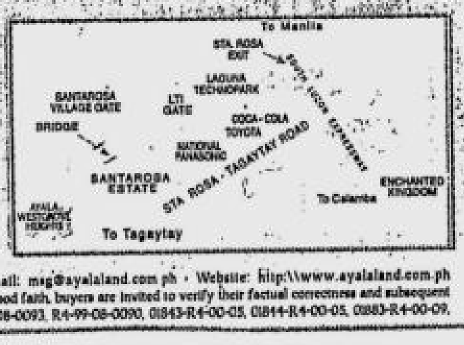

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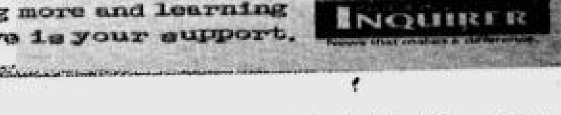
Public opinion.



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Jesus' baptism and explanations

COMPILED BY TELLY ALBERT ZULUETA

THE VERY first vision the holy mystic Maria Valtorta is shown after Jesus' heart-rending farewell to His Mother to start his public ministry, is the day He meets His cousin John "to fulfill the penitential rite" as He tells him, "...that all justice may be fulfilled and your rite (baptism) may become the beginning of a higher mystery, and men may be informed that the Victim is in the world."

John precedes Jesus toward the bank of the Jordan and Jesus takes off his mantle and tunic, and left with a pair of short trousers, descends into the river where there is John, who baptizes Him, pouring on His head some water from the river by means of a cup—a half-pumpkin dried and emptied—tied to his belt.

Jesus is really the Lamb. A Lamb in the whiteness of His flesh, in the modesty of his gestures, in the meekness of His look.

While Jesus climbs on to the bank and, after putting on his clothes, concentrates on praying, John points him out to the crowd and testifies that he recognized Him by the sign that the Spirit of God had shown him as an infallible means to identify the Redeemer.

As Jesus explains to Maria Valtorta:

"John did not need a sign for himself. His soul, which had been presanctified in his mother's womb, possessed that penetration of supernatural intelligence which all men would have had, if Adam had not sinned.

"If man had persevered in grace, innocence and loyalty to his Creator, he would have seen God through external appearance. In Genesis, you see that God used to speak to the innocent man in an informal way, and that man did not faint hearing His voice, neither was he deceived in discerning it. Such was the destiny of man: to see and understand God exactly as a son does his father.

"Then man sinned and he no longer dared to look at God, he was no longer able to see and understand God. Now he is less and less able to do so.

"But John, My cousin John, had been purified from fault when she, the Full of Grace, lovingly embraced Elizabeth who, after being barren, had become pregnant. The little child had leaped out of joy in her womb because he felt the scales of sin falling from his soul, as a scab falls off a wound when the latter is healed.

"The Holy Spirit, who had made Mary the mother of the Savior, started His mission of salvation on that child about to be born, through Mary, the living Tabernacle of Incarnate Salvation.

"The child was destined to be united with Me not so much by blood, as by the mission, by which we were like the lips that express a word. John was the lips; I, the Word. He was the Precursor both in the Gospel and in martyrdom. I, by means of My divine perfection, made perfect both the Gospel which John had started, and martyrdom, suffered to defend the Law of God.

"John did not need any sign. But a sign was necessary for the darkness of the spirit of other people. On what would John base his statement but on an undeniable proof evident to the eyes and ears of backward and dull listeners?

"Neither did I need to be baptized. But the wisdom of the Father had chosen that moment and way for our meeting. And leading John out of his cave in the desert and Me from My home, He united us in that hour to open the heavens above Me. And He descended Himself, a divine Dove, on Him Who was to baptize men with that Dove.

"His announcement was heard descending from Heaven, more powerful than the angel's because it came from My Father: 'This is My Beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased!' So that man should have no excuse or doubt in following or not following Me."

"My fatherland was full of manifestations. Like seed scattered to the four winds, they took place in every social condition in life: to shepherds, powerful people, scholars, skeptical men, sinners, priests, rulers, children, soldiers, Jews and Gentiles.

Note: To order the book "The Public Life of Jesus" serialized in Glow Magazine some years ago by permission of Centro Editoriale Valtortiano, write to National Center of the Legion of Little Souls, Royal Pines, Tagaytay City (tels. 809-2409/5546 or by calling Little Angels Inc. at 823-8105, ask for Carlito Naranja.)

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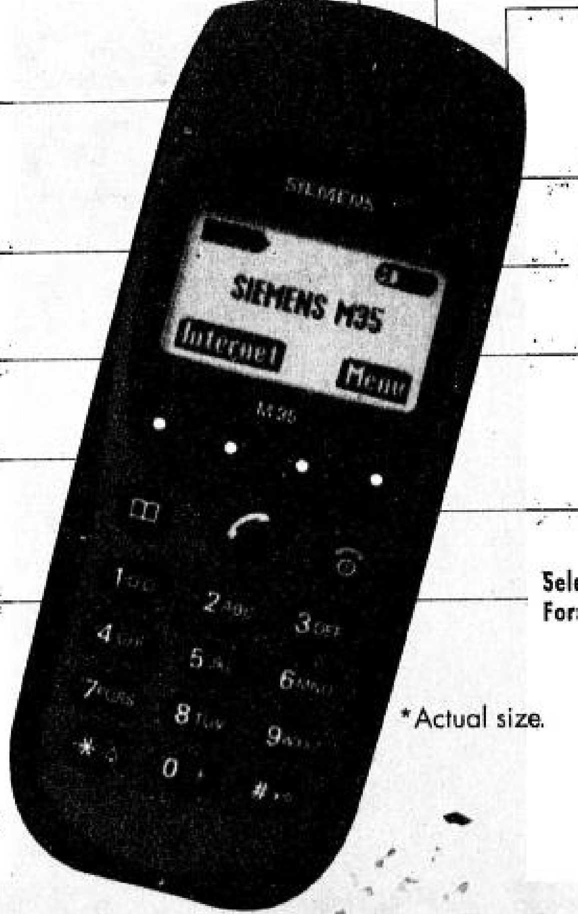

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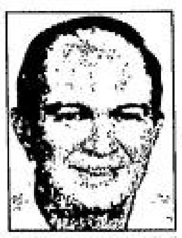
THE GANDIONCO FAMILY. Seated, Roberto and Janet Gandionco, Julie and Rodrigo Gandionco Sr., Patricia and Rodeon Uy; Standing, Rodrigo Gandionco Jr. and Eva, doctors Rico and Judith Gandionco, Ophelia and Cornelio Gandionco,Cora and Joseph Gandionco

A celebration of songs, wine and friendship

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell



EMILY Cunanan, pretty daughter of **Jose Cunanan Jr.** and **Merlie Padilla Cunanan**, recently married the brilliant young lawyer **Florante Abad**, son of **Gerardo Abad Sr.** and the late **Deanna Abad.** The wedding took place at the Cebu Cathedral, decorated with white flowers which were later brought to the Casino Español for the reception and dinner.

His Eminence **Ricardo Cardinal Vidal** was the main celebrant at the nuptial Mass. Being such a close friend of the bride's grandparents, Dr. **Tiburcio** and **Concesa Padilla**, the Cardinal also attended the reception, making a rare social appearance. Co-celebrants were Bishop **John Du**, also a close friend of the family, and Emily's maternal uncles—the Papal Nuncio of the Holy See to Nigeria Msgr. **Osbaldo Padilla** and Msgr. **Francisco Padilla**, who is with the Nunciature in Australia (Canberra).

Minnie Yuviengco made Emily's gown, an epitome of classic simplicity, and fashioned a sparkling tiara of crystals. Maid of honor **Maribel Cunanan** and the bridesmaids—**Marjorie Madera, Marie Anne Malinao, Anne Padilla, Lorelie Malinao, Beverly Atienza** and **Jo Ann Roa**—were clad in sky blue, by **Dino Lloren**.

Sponsors were mostly uncles, aunts, and close family friends. At random enumeration, they were **Helena Benedicto, Rosario Atienza, Mercy Madera, Carmelita Roa, Marietta Malinao, Jesus Abad, Felipe Abad, Julius Neri, Cristino Padilla, Gemilo San Pedro, Jan Aya-ay, Aida Padilla, Evelyn San Pedro, Ruth Urot, Eva Cunanan, Bimbo Ceniza, Ernesto Padilla, Macoy Mangubat** and **Eddie Selma**, mayor of Minglanilla in southern Cebu.

LAWYER and Ms Florante Abad

> The Abad-Cunanan wedding was one rare occasion for their relatives and friends to reunite

The celebration was made more lively with songs, wine and the reunion of friends who have known each other since they can remember. One coterie right beneath the great chandelier was that of Merle's classmates at STC, among whom was **Gema Pido**, now the food consultant of Casino Español and excelling herself on this occasion. Quite a coincidence, Merle commented. Just like her son-in-law Florante, who was once her student when she taught law at the University of San Carlos. Of course, Emily also studied at USC.

For their honeymoon, Emily and Florante left for Hong Kong, a little over two hours away from Cebu on direct flights by either PAL or Cathay Pacific. The latter—through country manager **Adrian Harley**, Cebu manager **Mark Liu** and Cebu sales manager **Connie Cimafranca**—has announced there will be daily flights between Cebu and HK starting Feb. 12. They stress they're not just bringing people from the Visayas on holiday to HK and many points onward, but due to the excellent facilities Cebu offers they are going to flood this area of central Philippines with tourists.

* * *

THERE must be a Julie's Bakeshop in close to a hundred spots all over the city and province of Cebu. And all over, the Visayas and Mindanao, plus Palawan, the Bicol region and even Alabang. In Manila and then eighboring locations of the National Capital Region, there must be about 20. It is a success story that **Julie Ramon Gandionco** has been besieged to tell and retell in recent weeks after the local papers carried out supplements to mark the 20th anniver-

A CELEBRATION/ p.C5

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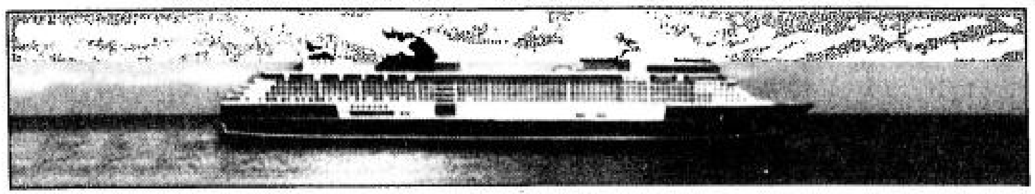

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A celebration of songs, wine and friendship

PRETTY girls all in a row (from left) maid of honor Maribel Cunanan and the bridesmaids, Marjorie Madera, Marie Anne Malinao, Anne Padilla, Lorelei Malinao, Beverly Atienza and Jo-Ann Roa

EMILY and Florante with (left) her parents Jose and Merle Cunanan, and (right) his sister Judith Abad Canono and father Gerardo Abad Sr.

(From page C4)

sary since the first Julie's Bakeshop opened on Jan. 6, 1981.

Girlishly pretty, with impeccable breeding, and an optimism that knows no bounds, Julie recalls how she and her husband **Rodrigo Gandionco** set up a business with no plans whatsoever of establishing a second bakeshop. "It just grew," she says. "People liked the bread, and we had to open once more." And more, and more, and more. She is often asked about her business acumen of which she says there is none. "I just pray," she told a newsman who interviewed her on this occasion of the anniversary.

To celebrate the milestone, there was a grand party at the Cebu Country Club attended by the entire family, which for Julie and Rodrigo is the actual key of their success. Everyone of their six children, and their respective spouses, are involved in the setting up of the bakeries, the franchising thereof, the sourcing of materials, the management of the ever increasing bakeries and the scouting of new locations.

While dinner was being served, there was a slide show presented by the eldest of the brood—**Roberto Gandionco**, who was with his pretty wife **Janet** and their children **Robert Yance**, **Jo Anne** with hubby Dr. **Ed Borromeo Jr.**, **Diane**, **Melissa** and **Paolo Gandionco**.

Dr. **Enrico Gandionco**, second son, was tasked with the welcome remarks, something he is very good at since he is a member of various civic organizations. He was with his wife Dr. **Judith Genson Gandionco** and their son **Jiggo Gandionco**. They have put both their professional (medical) activities aside to manage the more than 60 bakeries under their charge.

Joseph Gandionco's role in the program was to introduce Sen. **Raul Roco** who, due to the events in Manila, sent **Robbie Pierre Roco** to read his message, to great applause. With Joseph was his wife **Cora** (nee Cabinian, daughter of **Herme** and **Anita** who herself has several bakeshops). They have four children—**Tanya**, **Leah**, **Geo** and **Gisella Gandionco**.

The fourth scion **Rodrigo Gandionco Jr.** and his pretty wife **Eva** were present with his children from a previous marriage—**Maricris** and **Jiggy**—and their own offspring **Vinny**, **Kathy** and **Cassandra**. The youngest of the men, **Niel Gandionco**, and his wife **Ophelia**, (nee del Rosario) were surrounded by their four boys **Kane**, **Mark**, **Patrick**, **Jose Mari** and their youngest, a girl named **Sophia**.

Patricia, the youngest of Julie and Rodrigo's children, has the fragility of a fairy-tale princess. Or so it seems. Actually, she is a very dynamic young lady, married to an equally workaholic man **Rodeon Uy**. They have a boy, **Kevin**, and a daughter, **Julie Ann**, who is the only one of Julie's grandchildren that is her namesake.

Highlights of the party were duly announced by an excellent emcee, **Mafe Castillo**, who made it all quite snappy. There were beautiful dances by the University of Cebu performers, brief and eloquent speeches, and awards presented to suppliers and model employees.

Mikee takes on the most challenging role

Mikee Cojuangco was a sure winner the moment she stepped into the movie the limelight. With a background many aspiring personalities would wish they had: good family background, good education, pretty face, flawless skin and clean, wholesome image... the road to fame was sure to be smooth and easy.

But precisely because she seemed to "have it all", Mikee worked doubly hard to deserve all the success she got.

As an equestrian, she was tops. As a TV and movie personality, she was versatile and promising. Heiress to a legacy of beauty and wealth, her determination to excel always propelled her to reach for bigger and better things.

This year, Mikee reached another milestone in her life. She became a mother. Eager to be the best Mom a child could have, Mikee has since concentrated all of her efforts to being a good and caring Mom to little Robbie Jaworski and a loving wife to Dodot.

Watching Mikee as she cares for her home and her family, one is amazed at how someone so young can find so much joy in such a domesticated lifestyle. Mikee draws from the experience she had as she was growing up... in a home where love of family was always in the center of everything they did.

Mikee remembers how, as a child, her Mom Tingting would pamper her skin with baby lotion to keep it soft and smooth. Today, she gives Robbie the same ritual. And the baby lotion she uses is the same one she grew up with --- Johnson's Baby Lotion.

She remembers how her Mom used to stroke her arms with Johnson's Baby Lotion "to keep it baby soft". But she adds, "Johnson's baby lotion is even better now, because it doesn't just soften... it leaves the skin feeling silky smooth". Mikee the silky feel of softness it leaves on Robbie's skin. And on her skin, too. This Johnson's Baby Lotion mommy has never outgrown the lotion she loves. "Because the baby soft feeling never ends... and that's a feeling I love!" With all the new lotions in the market, Mikee remains a Johnson's Baby Lotion baby. "I love the soft silky feel it leaves on my skin!" she says.

You never throw away the good things you learned as a child. That's why Mikee is bringing up Robbie with the same love, care and discipline she grew up with... while adding her own precious touch of caring and mothering. This means giving Robbie her loving and caring attention at all times, making sure she uses only the best and the most mild and gentle products on his delicate skin... like Johnson's Baby Lotion.

Away from the limelight and the public eye, Mikee is giving her best shot to the biggest and most challenging role she is ever going to perform.--- that of being a wife to Dodot and a loving Mom to Robbie -- with the passion and heart that's characteristically Mikee.

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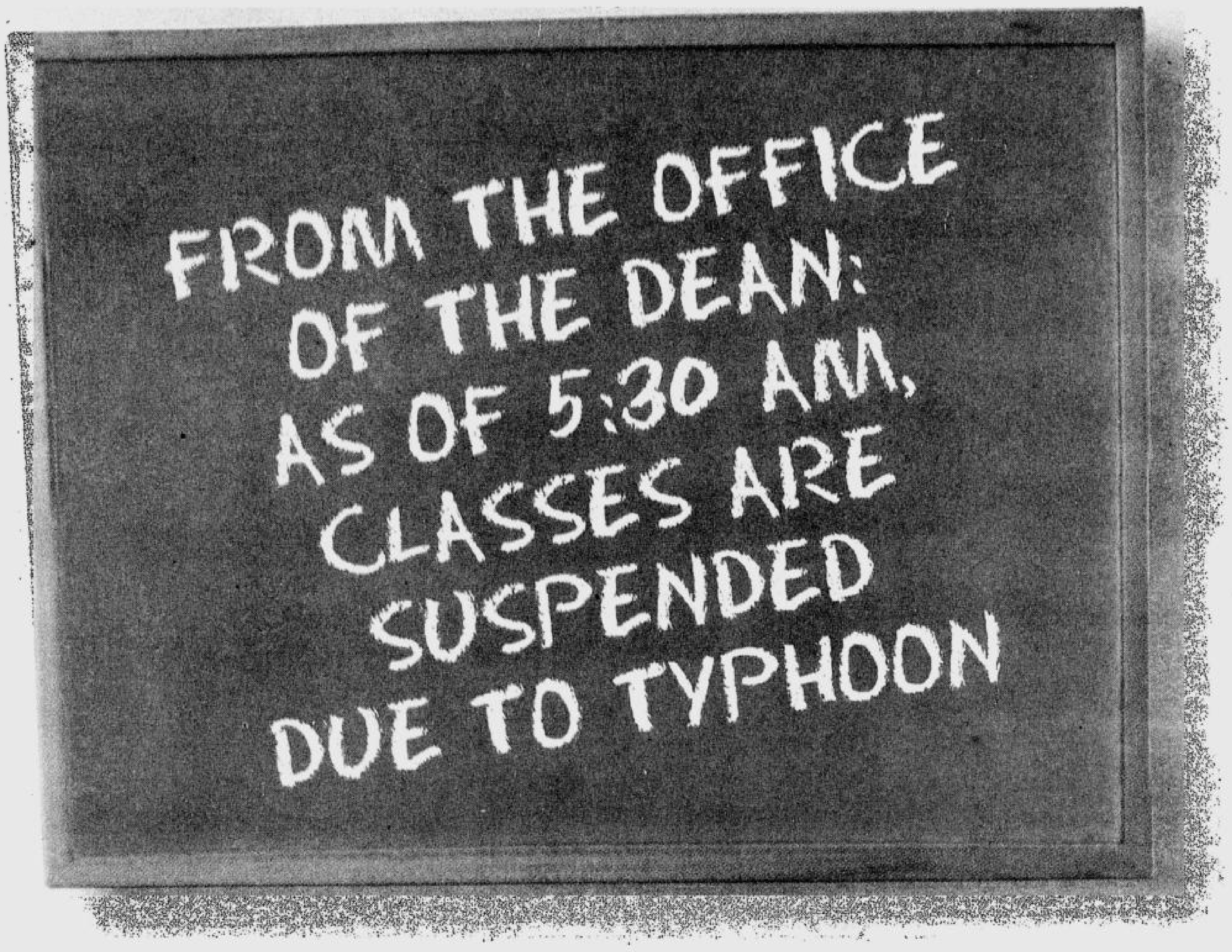
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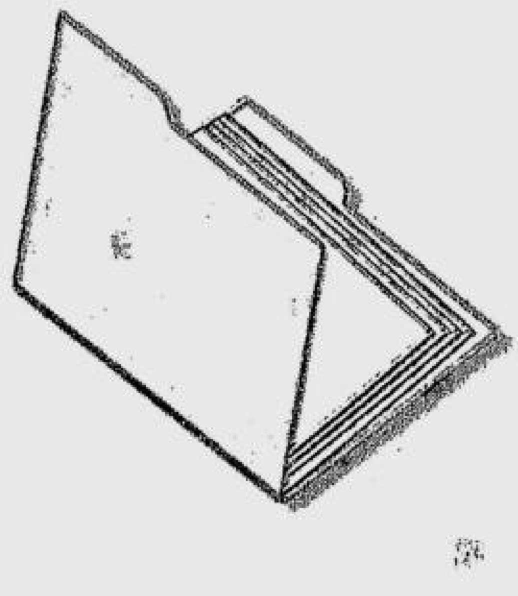

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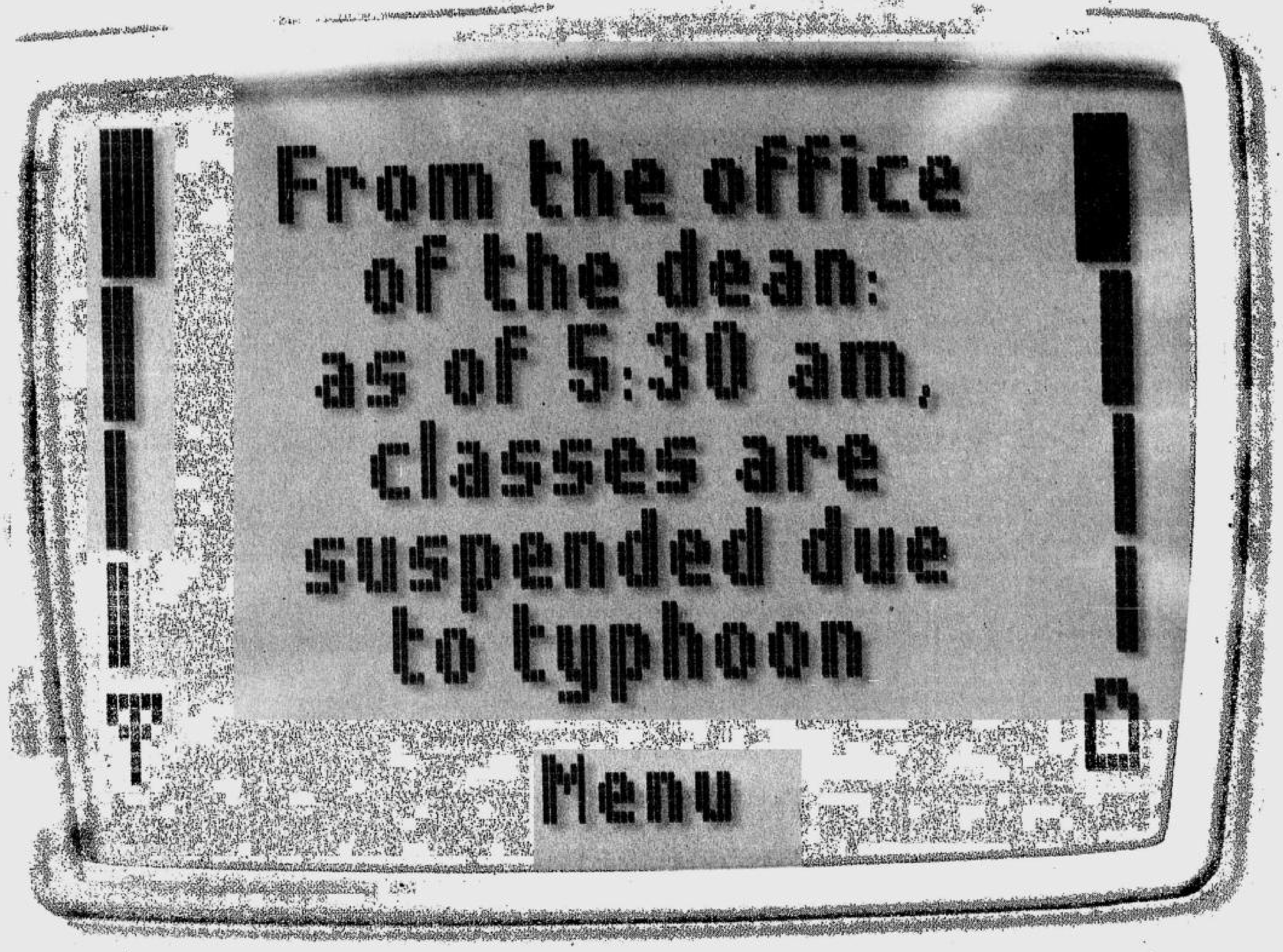

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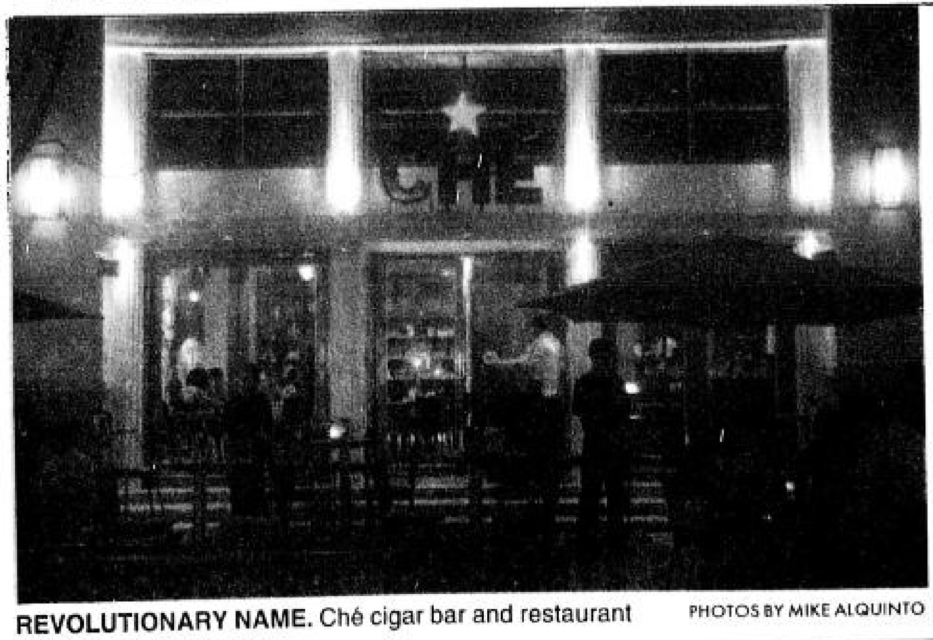
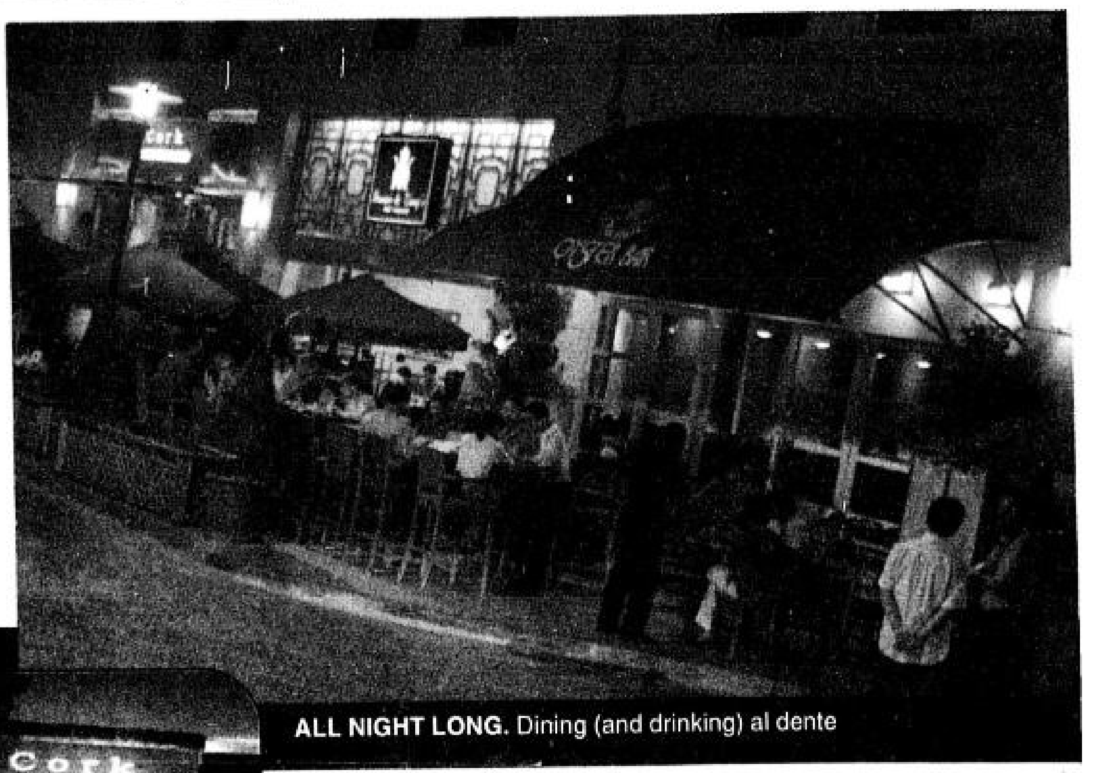


REVOLUTIONARY NAME. Ché cigar bar and restaurant PHOTOS BY MIKE ALQUINTO

Guests, mostly young, can choose to dine indoors or outdoors, to cross-order or not, to barhop, people-watch or simply gaze at lush trees and affluent towers



ALL NIGHT LONG. Dining (and drinking) al dente

The strip scene

BY ALEX Y. VERGARA

FRESH from ousting a corrupt president, it was back to normal for Carlo and his friends last Wednesday as they headed back to their old haunt to engage in long hours of small talk over dinner consisting mainly of bread, pasta and fresh oysters.

"We like this place," says the young executive while sipping his drink, a tall glass of Sprite and vodka on ice he himself mixed. "It's easy to park and we can drink and enjoy plenty of fresh air."

Carlo wasn't referring to either Malate or Glorietta on a typical weekday night. Finding a good place to park in Malate, especially during "gimmick" nights, is like looking for a cool outdoor place in air-conditioned Glorietta.

To top it all, their old haunt, the Power Plant Mall's West Strip inside posh Rockwell Center, is the newest place to be seen this side of Makati. Aside from providing ample parking space, the posh mall designed by American Colin Stephens has assembled six dining options along the strip for its patrons. Three more outlets are set to open soon.

"Business has been doing pretty good," says Joseph Ong, one of the owners of Via Mare Oyster Bar. "You should see this place on a Saturday night. It's really packed with people."

The only time customers shied away was during the recent EDSA 2, which was quite understandable, but after doing their bit for God and country, habitues have started to troop back to the Power Plant.

Decidedly young

And it's easy to understand why. The strip on Lopez Drive offers a diverse dining and drinking experience that's decidedly young, trendy and casual.

Mall owners, led by the Lopez clan, reportedly had to revise their plan of limiting the strip to fine-dining restaurants after the Asian crisis. Casual dining has become the buzzword as Filipinos with dwindling disposable incomes started looking for cheaper yet fresh alternatives.

"That's why we were particularly concerned about their respective concepts," says Joey Santos, Rockwell Land's EVP for retail. "We want our customers to experience something new from each of the establishment."

That also probably explains why, except for Seattle's Best Coffee, no American import has set up shop along the strip. Most of the owners, like couple Sandy and Andrew Masigan of Struan & Tang's Tea Salon, have come up with their own respective concepts.

"They may have different ideas, but they're all passionate about making their concepts work," Santos adds.

Ong, a franchise holder of Via Mare, is banking on an established name in the restaurant scene. Via Mare's big boss Glenda Barretto has given him some leeway to innovate and put some twists in the restaurant's menu.

Aside from offering fresh oysters in every imaginable preparation, for instance, Via Mare Oyster Bar has included a number of all time favorites available at its main restaurant: French Onion Soup, Seafood Bisque and Caesar's salad.

The place still has to complete its wine list, but Ong won't think twice of pointing customers to, say, Anthony and Tita Trillo's Cork Wine Bar for a good glass of the real thing. Cork, by the way, also serves dinner.

Rounding up the list is Ché, a cigar bar and restaurant named after the dashing Latin American revolutionary. Of course, there are more dining options inside the mall—from the very Pinoy Jollibee to the California-inspired Pacific Wharf—but most are open only up to 9 p.m.

Cross-ordering allowed

"Being with the best helps," Ong explains. "Together we attract a huge crowd with diverse tastes. Since we're like one neighborhood here, we encourage customers to cross order."

Despite having defined themselves from each other, most of these restaurants still carry full lunch and dinner menus. It's East meets West at Struan & Tang with its wide range of dumplings, Oriental rice meals and Continental fare. Via Mare Café specializes in native delicacies and traditional Filipino foods not found in the adjacent Oyster Bar.

Best of all, guests can also choose to dine indoors or outdoors. Each outlet has come up with an innovative interior to set it apart from the rest. Those who want to dine underneath the stars can barhop, people-watch or simply imbibe the view: lush trees and residential towers looming in the horizon.

"Most of my friends come here," says Butch, a Power Plant regular. "I often see familiar faces along the strip. This place is like an oasis providing a respite from the mad world outside."

Indeed, one momentarily forgets Metro Manila's traffic and squalor while driving along Rockwell Center's free-flowing streets, wrought-iron fences, brick walls and manicured gardens—an enclave of the rich, which seems isolated from a metropolis falling apart from decay.

"It's very Filipino to go to where there's something new," says Cherisse, a member of Carlo's gang. "I love their mall. It's so unlike anything else in the country." From the Power Plant she and friend Nicole joined Carlo, Butch and Connie for dinner.

The sidewalk's adjacent lane is closed on certain weekends to allow denizens to spill over and indulge themselves in an all-night street party until the wee hours. It will be another red-letter day at Power Plant on Feb. 14 as the strip again closes half of Lopez Drive.

But tenants living across the street need not worry. Mall owners are not about to bring in live bands or boisterous music to the scene. A place inside the mall's third level called Dish will soon take care of that.

"We were inspired by the spirit of Malate," says Santos. "Although we can never fully capture Malate's character and bohemian spirit, this strip offers several unique attractions not found elsewhere."

And that includes the young, vibrant people who have decided to turn the Power Plant into their latest watering hole.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

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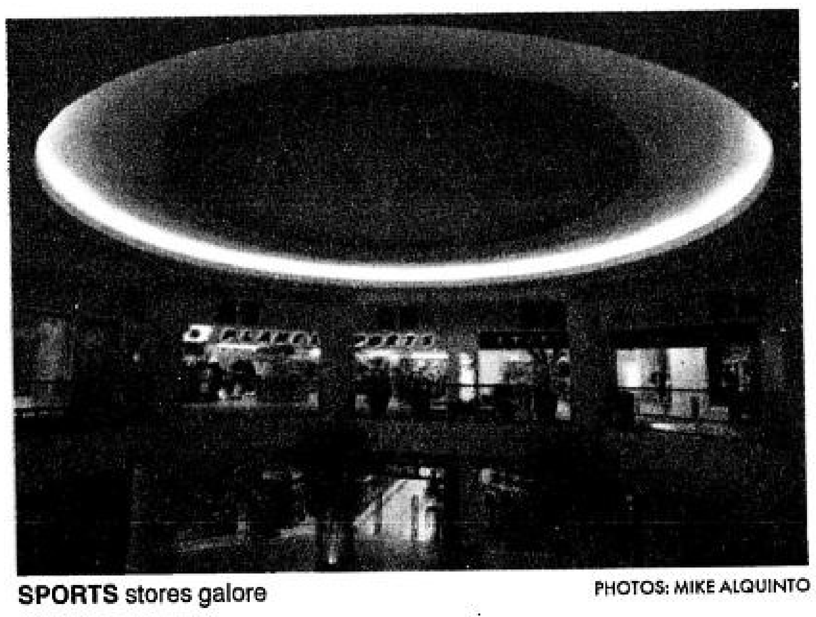

SPORTS stores galore

PHOTOS: MIKE ALQUINTO

Power Station

TEENERS REIGN HERE. Video arcade at Power Plant

Power shopping

BY CATHY BABAO GUBALLA
PHOTOS BY MIKE ALQUINTO

The coolest lifestyle shopping center today caters to the whims and needs of everyone in the family

IN THE 1950s until its shutdown in 1994, it was the site of the original Meralco power plant. Today, an impressive four-level rectangular building sits on 45,000 sq m, home to 160 outlets showcasing the best of local and international shops. For families who enjoy malling on the weekends, it makes for an ideal destination as there is something here for each member of the family. Aptly called Power Plant, it is undoubtedly set to become *the* place for power shopping.

Cozy, comfy interiors

Parking is state-of-the-art and hassle-free here at this urban mecca for shoppers. There are 2,000 parking slots with what they call "quick in and out" entry and exits. This may be due to the Plant's allocation of four parking slots per 100 sq m of leasable space in contrast to the usual solo slot per 100 sq m provided for by the National Building Code, which is followed by most malls in Metro Manila. In addition, there are no fouls smells (emission tests are conducted on a regular basis) or tacky fluorescent lighting here either. And for now, parking is free!

From the parking lot, there is direct access to shopping floors via escalators and elevators—a plus for families who have members with disabilities. There are a total of six levels: four floors of retail space and two-and-a-half levels of underground parking. Currently, there are 80 establishments already operational and, by March, the mall will have over 150 outlets of famous brands, new concepts and flagship stores.

Just walking around the mall itself is a pleasure as the air-conditioning is just perfect—neither too cold or too warm. The lighting fixtures are stylish and elegant; there are wooden handrails all over, giving a friendly, warm ambiance to what would have been a cold commercial establishment. As opposed to marble or granite, no slip, textured, ceramic tiles are used for the floors, even in the toilets that are centrally located (every mother's dream!), well stocked with amenities—soap, paper towels, toilet paper—and sparkling clean! Cubicle doors are finished in wood laminate and there are diaper changing areas as well.

Designed by Canada-based DI Design International, the same group that designed the impressive Bugis Junction in Singapore, the mammoth Lotte World in Seoul and the Pennsylvania Redevelopment in Washington, D.C., Power Plant is sure to meet the standards of the most discriminate shopper.

Mega shopping

A lifestyle shopping center, Power Plant's shops cater to the whims and desires of every age group. For fathers and sons, there are sports stores to choose from—Planet Sports and Nike to name a few, or the Eye Shield shop, which is the first in Manila to offer the Rudy Project line of eyewear for various sports activities. If tinkering around the home is your thing, there is a 2,000-plus sq m True Value shop on the Concourse level that carries every imaginable item you would need for a home project.

Mothers and daughters will have a great time checking out the clothes at good old Marks and Spencer, or Urban and Company, a Singapore clothing company which opened its first outlet at the Power Plant. There are Cole Haan and Kenneth Cole shops that are both flagship stores. Eventually, there will be a 700-sq m Bench/Her Bench and a PCX shop for young ladies. If bags are your thing, check out a shop simply called T, which sells very good quality, reasonably priced, stylish hand and shoulder bags in various sizes and colors.

A 1,000-sq m Kidz Station sitting on one end of the second floor beckons to every child or anyone who is a kid at heart. With a wide selection of toys, games, videos, etc., it will be hard to pry your child away from this toy wonderland. For expectant moms or families with babies, there is a Baby & Company shop right beside this toy mecca where one can find a wide array of clothing, toys and accessories to fill up one's nursery. Soon to open is a shop called Spin, which will specialize in boy's clothing (from ages 3-12) and a brother company of Big & Small and Orange Juice.

Bibliophiles need not worry as there is a huge Page One Bookshop on the first level. Renowned worldwide for art and design books, its first Manila outing features a more varied inventory. There are 50,000 titles here for book lovers of all ages. This bookshop displays books covers out, no spines. A personal favorite, though, is the fully carpeted children's book section which is well-stocked with a fantastic array of books for kids from age 1-12. Children and their parents can either sit on the floor or sit on navy egg-shaped Domani chairs as they browse through the books.

CHILDREN'S Corner at Page One

TOY WONDERLAND. Stuffed toy area at Kidz Station

LET'S go shopping, Ma! Kiddie buggies at Rustan's Fresh

Foodfest

There is, of course, no dearth of dining places. The Concourse level plays host to a selection of fast-food restaurants, among others, Jollibee and Shakey's to Nach-O-Fast, Bon Apetit, Milkyway or new establishments such as Zaifu which offers sumptuous Japanese dining, or Pazzo which has the best gelati in the entire Metro Manila. Soon to open are Kaya Express, good old KFC, Mr. Donut, Hot Cafe and a Seattle's Best Coffee.

If it's more formal dining you want, you can go to the strip on the Ground level and choose what suits your taste (***see accompanying story***) or go up to the third level and dip into a Fisherman's Wharf-inspired resto called Pacific Wharf.

Rustan's Fresh, the newest member of the Rustan's group of companies makes its home also on the Concourse level. Offering a new experience in grocery shopping, one is greeted with rows upon rows of fresh produce—seafood, fruits and vegetables, meats and poultry, delicatessen and dairy, bread and pastries. Very child-friendly, it has unique grocery carts with Lil Tikes cars attached to it. A 2-year-old sat quietly in his car for an hour as his mom traversed the wide aisles to do some shopping. It also has the most complete and friendly baby corners among all supermarkets—there are icons of clouds, animals and trees and a small round table with four chairs across a 14 inch television showing Disney videos. Most kiddies will ask their mommies to park their cars here for a minute or two.

World-class cinemas

Done with the shopping and dining?. Drop off the groceries with ease in the parking lot and cap the day's outing by taking in a movie at any of the six cinemas on the mall's third level. The Power Cinemas feature Dolby Digital Surround EX Sound System. Stadium-style seating in the cinemas ensure superior sight lines for even the smallest viewers. High-back, ergonomically designed cinema seats provide added comfort in movie viewing. For parents with small children, there are "club" seats that allow mommies or daddies and the little ones to sit side by side minus the armrest. A full acoustic treatment is achieved through special panels from Sweden. There is also a computerized ticketing system which allows viewers to make reservations and purchase their tickets ahead of time. This helps minimize long queues, though on our last visit, the lines still seemed to stretch until kingdom come. Popcorn and nachos are a hit at the cinemas and cineastes can grab a Frap or a hot chocolate from the Starbucks satellite shop right across the box office.

Soon there will be a 26-lane bowling center (glow in the dark pins, folks!) set to open in the summer. An Entertainment Center called Dish! located right beside the cinemas is currently in the works, too. There is much to look forward to in terms of shopping, dining and entertainment at the Power Plant but as it is, a family can already spend an entire day here not only to powershop but power-bond as well.

Power Plant opens its doors from 10 a.m.-9 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m.-10 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

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Trends & Trendings

Kitchen with hip interiors, texting and Edsa 2, what's in and out of politics

BY ANTON SAN DIEGO

MUST-go-to restaurant—Kitchen

TECHNOLOGY to save our democracy. Text messaging!

MUST-GO-TO restaurant—Kitchen. Two weeks ago I was invited to a friend's birthday party held at the new Kitchen restaurant at SM Megamall in Ortigas. Being an avid diner in their Greenbelt branch I was in for a pleasant surprise. It still retained their communal tables, open kitchen and good food but the interiors and enclosed space give it a more wholistic feel. Its owners, dynamic entrepreneurs **Ricco Ocampo** and **Rikki Dee** say that this is the look they want to achieve. Done in dark wood à la Christian Liaigre, the place offers private dining areas for those who want a more intimate setting. This is the new wave of 21st century restos: Well-priced good food, hip interiors and sophisticated ambience. Check out their new branch at SM Megastrip in Ortigas.

How text messaging saved our democracy. Isn't technology amazing? Text messaging all those jokes may have saved our country and sanity. After that fateful day, when the 11 senators voted not to open the envelope, many people went to Edsa because of the text messages they received. Especially on **Tessie Oreta**'s bratty dance (she will never get to live this one down) and **Ernie Maceda**'s pronouncements.

How could we have survived without texting (not a word but will be soon)? It is so cool that you can send a message and get a reply, especially when you really don't feel like speaking to that person anyway. What amazes me is the one who comes up with all those graphics and jokes in such a short time. I particularly like the choices for what's in the second envelope: **Miriam**'s nude picture, **John Osmeña** in a two-piece or **Erap**'s Ateneo grades. The other day I had this discussion with my friends whether or not to use the dictionary mode. It's so much easier to abbreviate, till it made me want to abbreviate everything including my e-mail and articles. When I tried the dictionary mode, I was hesitant at first especially since you had to plug in words not included in the memory. After awhile though it was smooth sailing, now my dictionary has words like "bahala na," "cibo," "glorietta," etc.

There are downsides to texting. When I am in the car and my phone beeps I just have to text back. One time I almost hit a pedestrian, which got me into cold sweats. Maybe they should come up with a new law, "If you drive don't text." It might get too complicated, better get a driver.

Only in the Philippines will you be able to get highly confidential information through text messages which all come from a reliable source. People should check their authenticity before they pass them around. At times though it may work, like the text message saying Erap was withdrawing money from Citibank.

Isn't it a bit disconcerting that somehow your parents know how to text? They will never put on the DVD or worst the VHS because they are afraid they might break it. Now that they learned to text, they have become your text mate. Whenever I see their caller ID, I think "Oh no! They found me" and worry that they will tell me off or worst tell me to go home.

What I really hate is all those text chain mails. I really do not understand the logic. One time I received a message saying, "These are lucky coins please send to nine people and you will receive good luck." Hello! They're not coins but a computer drawing. I just deleted it!

I really don't know what we will do without texting or what kind of technology there will be in the next few years. Maybe if it was already around in 1986 it would have been easier to oust Marcos for it surely worked to overthrow Estrada.

So what's next? Now that Estrada's gone (or is he?), there are some things I will definitely miss: the rallies, my two-to-eight-p.m. habit of watching (or listening on AM radio) the impeachment trials and those Erap jokes. I spoke to friends and we realized that everything happened so fast that we still have all this pent-up energy. One over-zealous friend said, "Who should we oust next?" As I write this, I am waxing sentimental. Will I ever get to see: Judge **Davide** again, Miriam go ballistic and throw people out of the Senate, **Apostol** call the women witnesses, "Madame wetness" and the Fortun brothers who, according to jokes, look like Babote Villaruel (Sigfrid) and a Smurf (Raymond)? I will miss all that, but it's great to know we can finally move on.

Monday night I caught the excellent coverage of the ''Correspondents'' show on Channel 2. It featured the four days of Edsa 2. There were a lot of moments that they captured. They interviewed this lady who had all these expletives regarding senators. It was so funny and I commend this woman's guts! Another one was the heroism of handicapped (physically challenged) women. They went to Edsa in their wheelchairs, like many to fight for our democracy. That scene made me cry.

So many people say that we live life in a cycle. That what happened was exactly the same as in 1986. But somehow the cycle needs to end here. We need to learn from the painful choice of the last elections. Through all this God showed His hand in our lives, that he is in control. It really is a miracle. There is no one person who can solely claim that he had a hand in toppling Erap. Now, it's up to us to preserve what we believed and fought for. We have to be vigilant to the end.

This is a new chapter in our history. **Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo** is our 14th President.

I end this week with a quote from her oath-taking, "Now is the time to heal and to build. I pray we will all be one. One in our priorities...one because of Edsa 2001."

E-mail the author at asd_world@hotmail.com

Who and what's in/out politics. There's a new leader, administration and general feeling and attitude of triumph and hope in the air. Because of what happened a week ago, the miracle at Edsa, we have a lot of changes going on. So out with the old, and in with the new. That's life: What comes up must come down. It surely is a welcome change!

	IN	OUT
Color:	Cory—yellow	Mare—Orange
Doyennes:	Nene Quimson & Mercy Tuason Baby Magsaysay	Fortune Ledesma, Evie Costa & Ruby Tuazon
Power meetings:	Pen Lobby	Estelito Mendoza's office
Actors:	Nora Aunor, Bong Revilla	Philip Salvador & Rudy Fernandez
Presidential children:	Mikey, Luli & Dado	JV, Jinggoy and Jude
Designers:	Pitoy Moreno & Inno Sotto	Paul Cabral
Hero:	Hilario Davide	Andres Narvasa
Senatorial hopeful:	Kiko Pangilinan	Jamby Madrigal
Last names:	Spanish sounding and more than two syllables	Oriental sounding and one syllable
Domicile:	Linden Suites & La Vista (except for Coseteng's, Tatad's and Miriam's new home)	North Greenhills Wack Wack, New Manila
Mode of transportation:	MRT	Barge ride by the Pasig River
Attitude:	Belief in the country	Taking advantage of the powerless
Spiritual advisers:	Cardinal Sin, Bro. Eddie Villanueva	Mike Velarde
Newscasters:	Vicky Morales, Pinky Webb Karen Davila	Korina Sanchez & Ted Failon
Cabinet members:	Bert Romulo, Vicky Garchitorena	Mike Toledo & Dong Puno
Political affinity:	Lakas-NUCD	LAMP
Group:	Gloria's classmates	Mare's & Guia's gang
Partners:	Your wife	Mistresses
Place to be seen:	Malacañang	Polk St.

TING San Diego, Karen Grey with Do and Roman Teehankee

6 horny goats mark their birthday

TEESAW

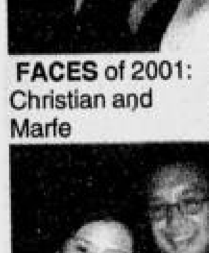
Raul Teehankee

EJ LITTON, Pepito Albert, Maurice Arcache, Anton Gonzales, Jojo Manlongat and **Bibot Nolan** were the first birthday celebrants of January honored by Stars. Called Six Horny Goats, it was a riotous event packed with an interesting mix of models, socialites, newsmakers and movers.

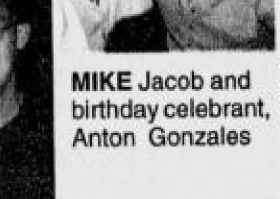
If the party was any indication of things to come, we are in for an exciting, fun and bumpy Year of the Snake.

KEREN Pascual, Jojo Manlongat and Rustom Padilla

CES Drilon



FACES of 2001: Christian and Marfe



MIKE Jacob and birthday celebrant, Anton Gonzales

YVETTE Novenario and David Jacob

EJ Litton, the man behind Stars, and Paolo Prieto

TITO Villavicencio and Patricia Katigbak

STYLE QUIZ

How fabulous are you?

BY KITTY GO

JUST as soon as you saved your hard earned $800 (give or take a few bucks for tax and exchange rates, depending on where you bought it) for a ubiquitous Prada bowling bag, it is, and I hate to be the bearer of bad news, totally OUT. In fact, it went out as soon as it came in. The bag is so dead that if it were human, suicide advocate Dr. Kevorkian would go out of business. So the big question is, "How will you know what the next big thing would be before it goes out?"

Fabulous women know that the secret to stylishness, like many things in life—say, business or escaping from jail—lies in TIMING. Why should you be carrying a beaded bag now when you should be carrying a leather clutch? Did you know that dressing boho is out and dressing boyish is in? And that perhaps yoga at home, compared to at an ashram, just may be too last season?

E-mail the author at styledowager@hotmail.com.

Are you perceived as the style setter among your friends? Do you always know the most nouvelle dish to order in the most nouvelle of cuisines? Are you always at the center of the social whirl? Take this test to find out if you are indeed 'fabulous!'

1. Your style icon is:
a) Audrey Hepburn
b) Tina Maristela
c) Kate Moss

2. You live between:
a) Manila and Hong Kong
b) Manila, New York and San Francisco
c) Manila, a major international city and an old European farmhouse

3. You started wearing vintage clothes:
a) last year
b) can't even remember because you've been into vintage since college
c) last season

4. Who just signed a contract with Tom Ford to design for Gucci?
a) Alexander McQueen
b) Kostas Murkudis
c) Pierre Hardy

5. You prefer to shop at:
a) Barney's in Manhattan
b) Akademia in Belgravia
c) Tracy Ross in Los Angeles

6. The latest pair of shoes you bought were from:
a) Michel Perry
b) Manolo Blahnik
c) Sergio Rossi

7. The newest and hippest restaurant/bar in London is:
a) San Lorenzo, one of Princess Di's favorite places
b) The Bush Bar and Grill in Shepherd's Bush
c) Nobu at the Metropolitan Hotel

8. Your favorite showbiz personality is:
a) Richard and Lucy
b) Gwyneth Paltrow
c) Manay Lolit Solis

9. The new designer at Ruffo Research is:
a) Santa's little helper
b) Sophia Kokosalaki
c) Markus Lupfer

10. Your favorite casual footwear comes from:
a) Converse
b) JP Tod's
c) Hogan

11. Burberry checks are:
a) totally in
b) fast on the way out

12. You now send your invitations out by:
a) Internet
b) mail
c) messenger

13. Your pashmina (which you bought in the early '90s) is now:
a) draped on your sofa
b) hidden in your closet because they may be in again
c) your dog's blanket

14. The flowers that now adorn your dinner parties are:
a) Casablancas
b) Carnations
c) Sampaguita

15. Upon arrival in San Francisco, you:
a) head for Neiman-Marcus in Union Square
b) drive to Daly City
c) catch a connecting flight to New York

16. The new secondary line by Stella McCartney at Chloe is called:
a) Look
b) Catch
c) See

17. Last year, your earrings of choice were:
a) diamond chandeliers
b) gold hoops
c) pearl studs

18. Family and friends of Alexander McQueen call him:
a) Alex
b) "Taba"
c) Lee

19. Which actress was wrongly rumored to be the next Estee Lauder girl:
a) Joyce Jimenez
b) Gwyneth Paltrow
c) Cameron Diaz

20. Wallpaper* editor in chief Tyler Brule's real name is:
a) Jayson
b) Jacques
c) Jaka

BONUS QUESTION:

1) And for all you US Vogue readers, a bonus question....Staffers at US Vogue are rumored to not speak to editor in chief Anna "Nucelar" Wintour unless:
a) Erap is exiled
b) They are spoken to
c) She removes her sunglasses

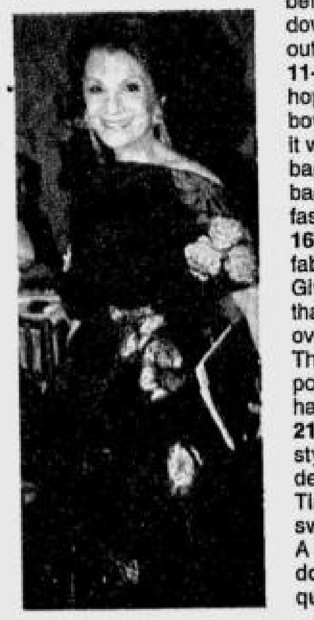
So, how fabulous are you?

1c	Kate, as you know, is the style icon of this generation. So get with it, fashion folks!
2c	Nothing is more luxurious than getting (REALLY FAR) away from it all.
3b	They don't make clothes like they used to.
4a	Not just a contract to do Gucci but also signed away half ownership of his business to the Gucci group Tom Ford and Domenico de Sole, much to the consternation of his former boss Bernard Arnault of LVMH.
5b	That's Belgravia in London, babe. Akademia is owned by the ultra-stylish Lady Victoria Hervey and stocks the coolest of the cool of international fashion.
6a	Elle UK declared Michel Perry the next shoe line to watch so get in line!!!
7b	Ex-Pinoy resident Charlie McVeigh, his wife Sofia and Saffron Rainey successfully put up "members only" Woody's in Notting Hill Gate and just opened the celebrity-packed Bush Bar and Grill in Shepherd's Bush this fall.
8c	The truly fabulous love the truly honest and Manay Lolit takes the cake (and the slippers!)
9d	The newest design star from Greece is working with the best leather in the world.
10a	Like John Travolta, there's nothing like a has-been that is cool again. And the older your shoe, the better.
11b	Cherie Blair and Shenzen have jointly contributed to its decline.
12a	Your mother may tell you it's not proper but smoking wasn't either......
13c	I can only say one thing, "You lucky dog!!"
14b	According to The Times (of London) and In Style, carnations and gladiola, the most *"baduy"* of flowers are so *"baduy"* they've become hip.
15c	If you're not going for surgery at Stanford or USF Medical Center, why choose the city that sleeps at 10 p.m. over the city that never sleeps?
16c	You See, I told you....
17b	Gold was last year. Pearls are this year.
18b	*Ang layo, no?*
19b	So what *kung hindi natuloy*.... At least tight *naman sila ni* Madonna.
20a	Behind every stylish person is a baduy wanting out. Right, Bhoyet?
21b	Wouldn't you love to work there? I wonder how Miriam Defensor-Santiago will fare....

SCORES:

0-5: Why are you reading this article? You should be handwashing your Giordano T-shirt.

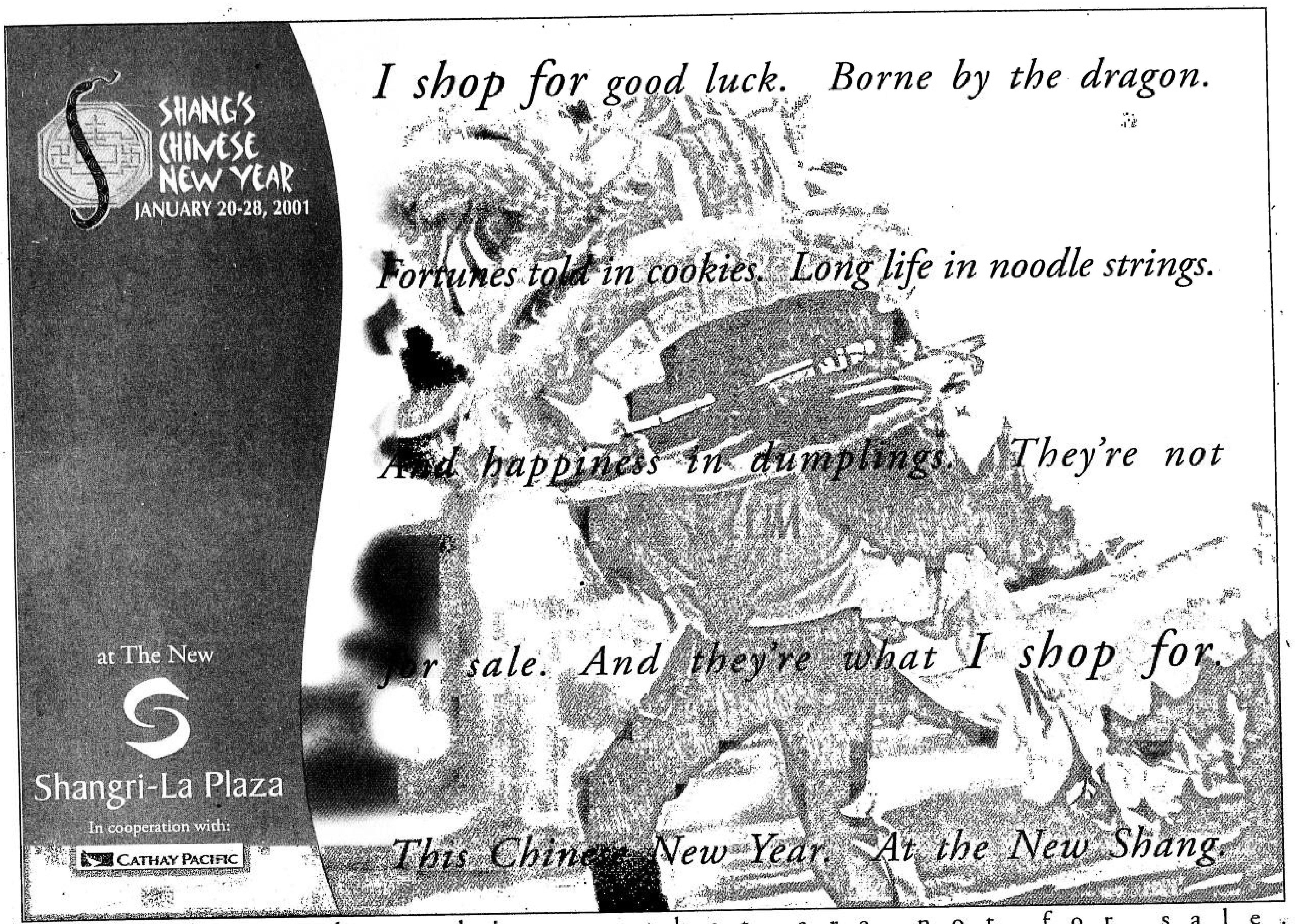
6-10: If you got Club Roman jeans this Christmas, you should not be surprised. Get your act together before wrongly plunking down money on super-out cargo pants.



11-15: There is still hope. Get rid of the bowling bag and replace it with a fish tackle-type bag or airline-inspired bag before the brutal fashion types notice.

16-20: Aren't you fab? Or so you think. Give yourself a hug with that Balenciaga oversized black jacket. Then take off three points for trying too hard.

21-25: You're so stylish we don't deserve each other. Tim Yap would love to swap cool info with you! A person so fabulous doesn't deserve this quiz.


SHANG'S CHINESE NEW YEAR
JANUARY 20-28, 2001

I shop for good luck. Borne by the dragon. Fortunes told in cookies. Long life in noodle strings. And happiness in dumplings. They're not for sale. And they're what I shop for. This Chinese New Year. At the New Shang.

at The New
Shangri-La Plaza
In cooperation with:
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Shop for the things that are not for sale.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

BRING HOME LONG LIFE AND HAPPINESS!
Chinese Bazaar: Jan. 20-28, 10 AM - 9 PM daily
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KNOW YOUR 2001 FORTUNE!
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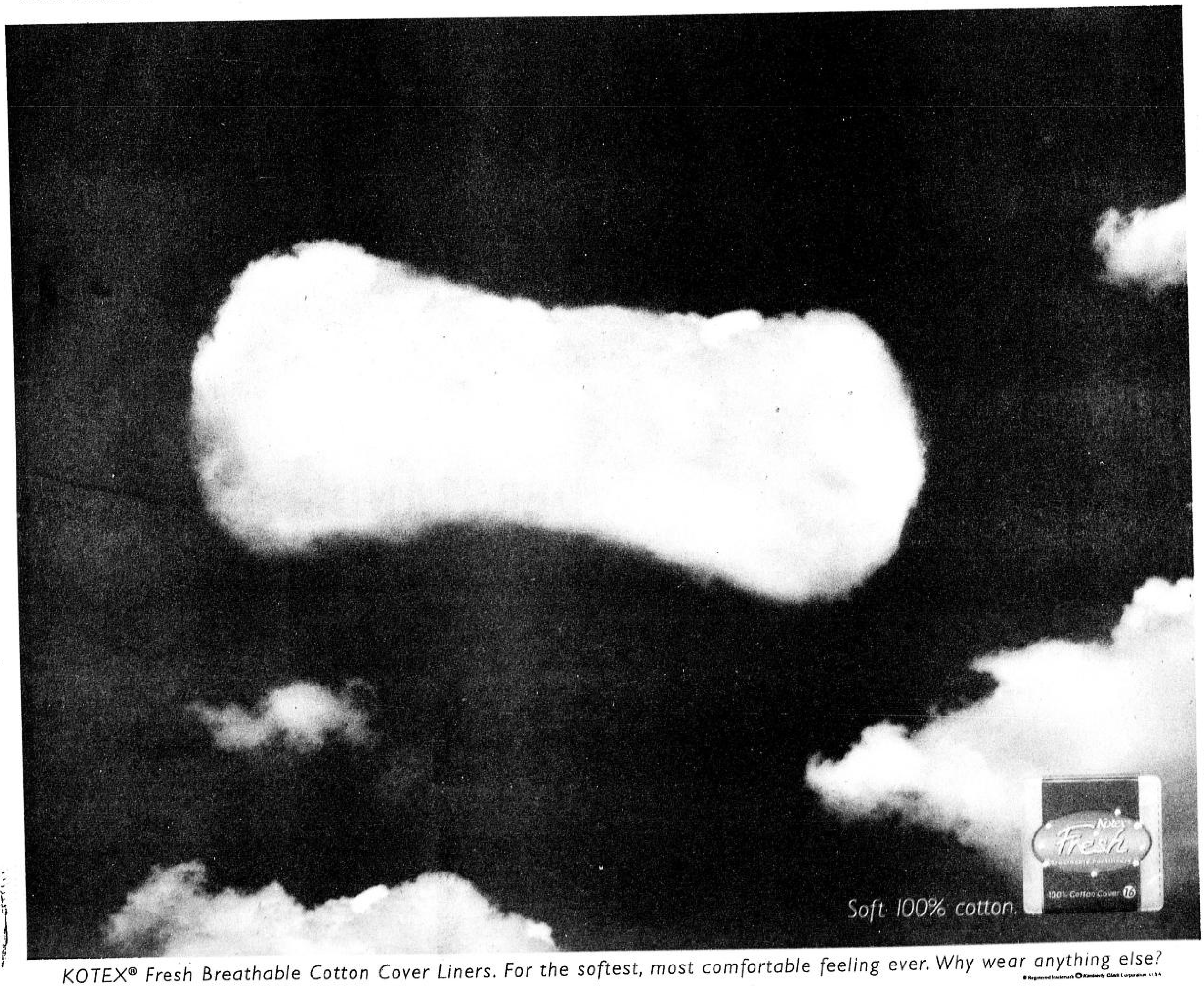
EDSA corner Shaw Blvd. Mandaluyong City • Tel Nos. 633-7851 to 70 • www.shangrila-plaza.com • Open 10 AM to 9 PM daily.



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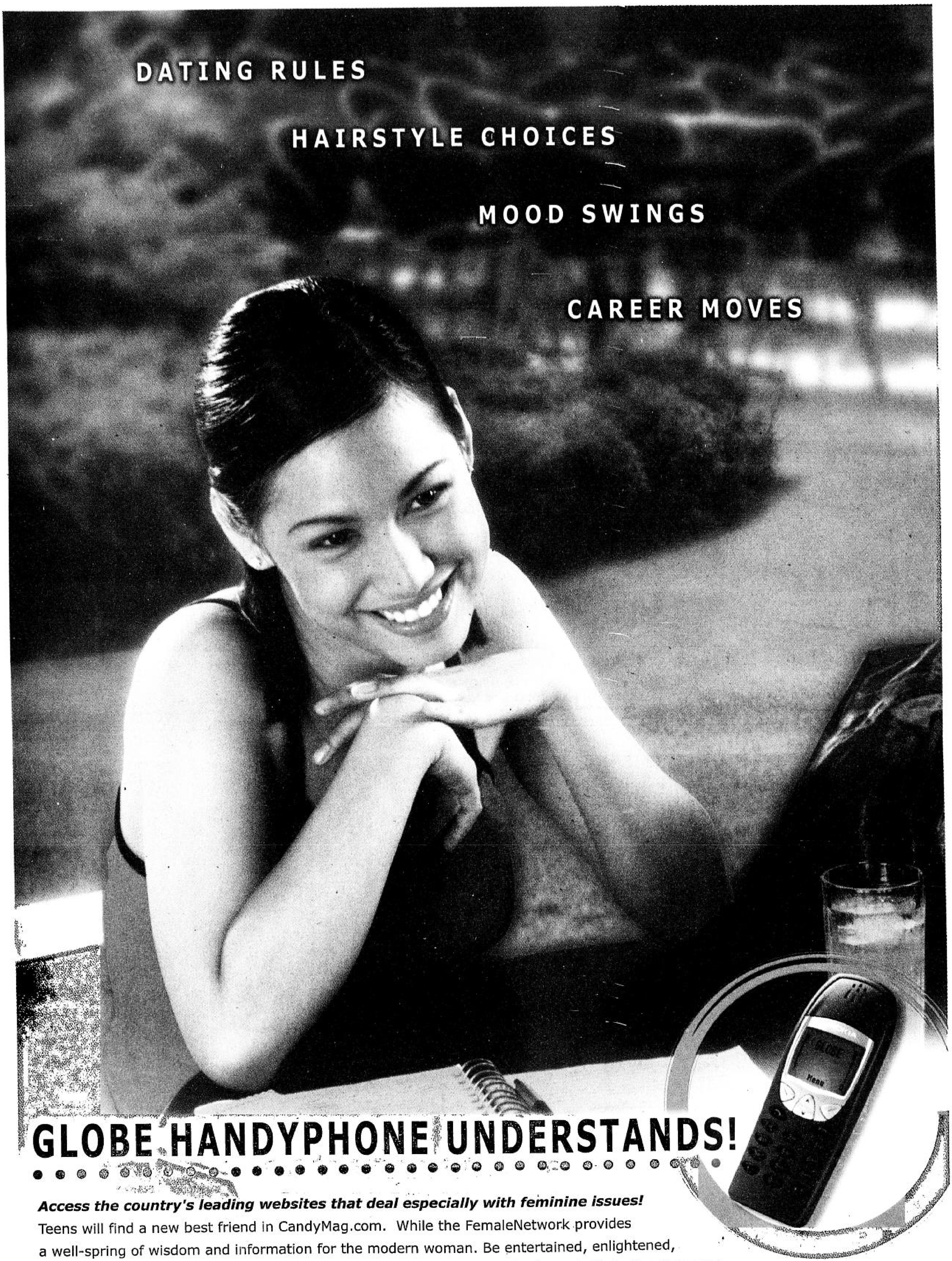
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HAIRSTYLE CHOICES
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Menu

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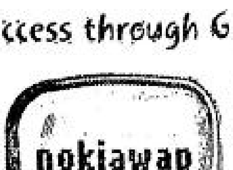

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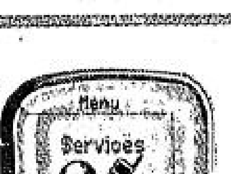
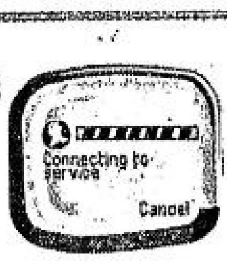
The keywords are:

- For Nokia 7110/6210-nokiawap
- For EricssonR320s-ericssonwap
- For Siemens M35-siemenswap
- For Motorola T2288-motorolawap

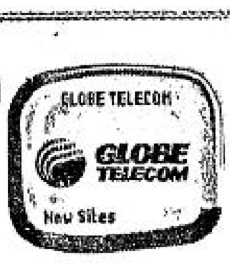
Follow the settings and configure your phone.

2

Menu
Services
Home
Exit

If your WAP handset is already configured, then go to the services menu of your WAP-capable phone and click on Home.

3

Connecting to service
Cancel

You will then see a prompt advising you that you are being connected to the service.

4

GLOBE TELECOM
GLOBE TELECOM
New Sites

Once connected, the Globe Homepage will appear. Click on the Female Views under the Entertainment Category and WAP away!

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least a month before the wedding. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

UY-ADAN

Erwin Uy, son of Mr. and Ms **Elisco Uy**, and **Tessa Adan**, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Vivencio Adan**, exchanged marital vows on Jan. 21 at the San Sebastian church. The reception was held at the San Agustin Inner Court, Intramuros, Manila. The bride's gown was designed by **Patis Tesoro**.

ORBIJO-MERCADO

Allan Orbijo, son of **Alberto** and **Felicidad Orbijo** of Marilao, Bulacan, and **Bubot Mercado**, daughter of engineer **Alex** and **Linda Mercado** of Colon, Palawan, recently tied the knot at the St. Pancratius Chapel, Paco Park. The ceremonies were officiated by Rev. Fr. **Gadwin Tatlonghari**. The reception was held at the World Trade Center.

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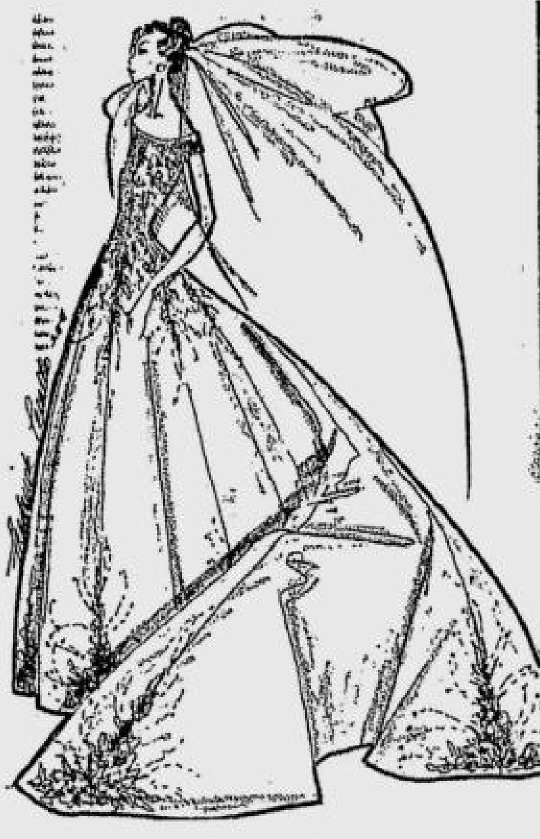
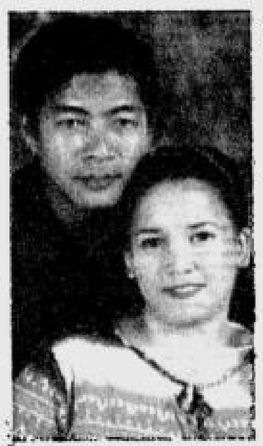




TIZON-ECLAR

Eddie R. Tizon, son of **Gregorio Tizon Jr.** and **Erlinda Tizon**, ties the knot with **Ma. Sherryll Rose E. Eclar**, daughter of **Felipe Eclar** and **Elisa Eclar** today at Sta. Maria Euprasia Parish, Dasmariñas, Cavite.

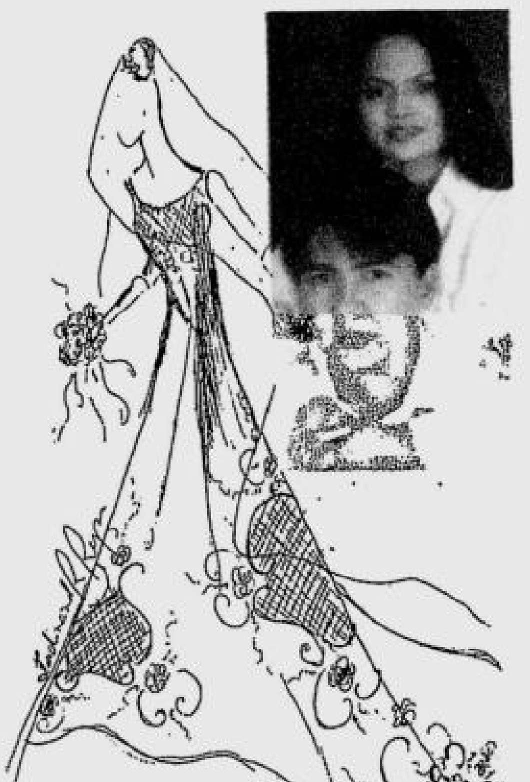
PRESTOSA-SALTERIO

LADY Salterio, youngest daughter of **Jaime Salterio**, wears this **Frederick Peralta** gown when she exchanges "I do" with engineer **Aldrin Prestosa**, son of **Engracio** and **Carmen Prestosa**, in a garden wedding at 7:30 a.m. today at the Westin Philippine Plaza. Reception follows at the ballroom.

The gown is a classic princess-cut style. The off-shoulder silk duchess satin creation is embellished with crystal cut beads and pearls on the bodice and skirt, which ends in a semi-cathedral train. Peralta also created the gowns of the entire entourage.

Principal sponsors are engineers **Eddie Paculan**, **Mario Catahan**, **Job Bigay** and **Victor Sdriano**, lawyer **Cesar Medrana**, Pastor **Adriano Busa**, Dr. **Ricardo Pascasio**, **Jose Mari Chan**, **Tirso Cruz III**, **Lynda Soler**, **Susan Barcarse**, **Fe Prestosa**, **Letty Paculan**, **Flordeliza Macasinag**, **Rebecca de Castro**, **Nancy F. Bigay**, **Myrna Hernandez** and **Julie Morales**.

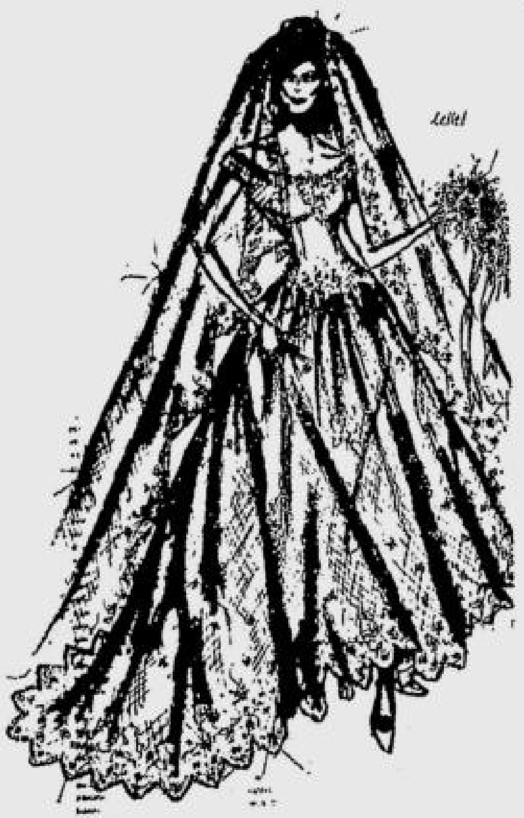
Officiating minister is Rev. **Alfonso G. Salterio**.



FAISAN-MERCADO

Nomer B. Faisan, son of **Jose** and **Ligaya Faisan**, exchanged marital vows with **Joanne M. Mercado**, daughter of **Juanito** and **Pacita Mercado**, on Dec. 17 at Sacred Heart Parish Church. Nomer is a medical representative of Novartis Phils. Inc. while Joanne is an employee of Smart Communication Inc.

The bride wore an elegant silver-gray gown embellished with Malaysian beads, sequins and rhinestones, with intricately beaded train and floor-length veil with Swarovski crystals. It was designed and created by **Ferdinand Reyes** of Candaba, Pampanga. Reception followed at Rib-eye Function Hall, Balibago, Angeles City.



WUI-LOPEZ

Lawyer **Marlon Arrozal Wui**, son of **Mario** and **Lourdes Wui**, ties the knot with **Ma. Glenda Sanchez Lopez**, daughter of **Modesto** and **Lilia Lopez**, today at the Sta. Rita Parish Church, Philamhomes, QC. Reception follows at Casa Espanol, Mindanao Avenue, QC.

The bride wears a **Letlet Veloso** creation, an off-white gown made of tulle and embroidered at the hem with a floral pattern and on the bodice and neckline, with glass beads and sequins to enhance the dainty embroidery.

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GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

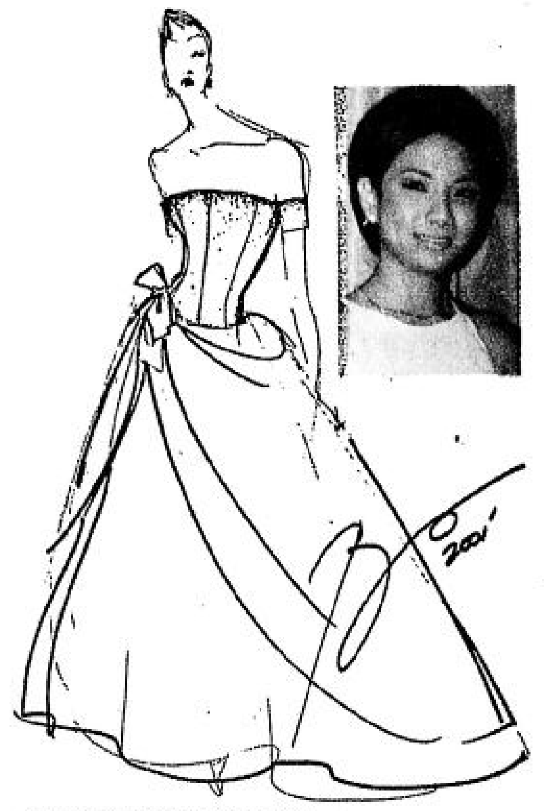
Bernardino and **Antonia Graza** (nee **Hipolito**) renewed their wedding vows on Dec. 20 at the Holy Family Parish Church, Kamias, QC. Officiating priest was Rev. Fr. **Arnel Reciento**. Reception followed at Pook Ligaya, Don Antonio Heights, Holy Spirit, QC.

The bride wore a variation of the traditional Maria Clara made of *piña*, intricately embroidered with a mixture of wooden and pearl beads. The gown was created by the couple's son, **Rollie H. Graza**, patterned from the bride's original gown.

With their children, from left, **Maria Fatima, Virginia, Ricardo, Victorino, Isidro Rollie, Carlito, RJ** and **Veronica**.

TANAFRANCA-JIMENEZ

Enrico V. Tanafranca and **Ma. Christina L. Jimenez** will exchange solemn vows in a wedding ceremony on Feb. 10 at the Las Piñas Bamboo Organ Church. The groom is the youngest son of **Arturo** and **Iluminada Tanafranca**, while the bride is the daughter of **Carlos** and **Myrna Jimenez**. Reception will follow at the church's Garden Plaza.



SANTIAGO DEBUT

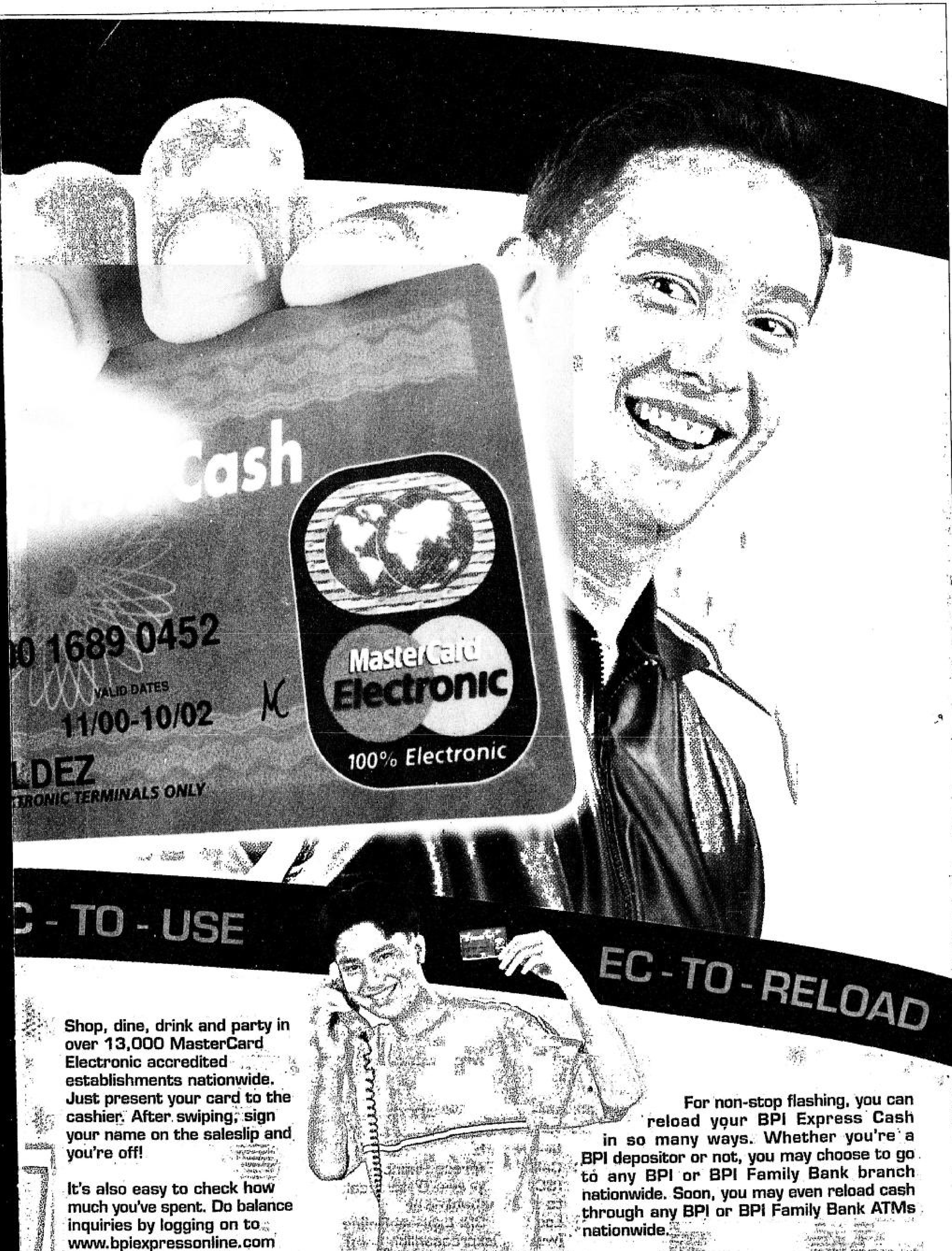
Petrei Chloe C. Santiago, daughter of **Carlos Simon** and **Cynthia Santiago** of Xavierville I, Loyola Heights, QC, celebrates her 18th birthday today with a dinner-dance at the Garden Ballroom of Shangri-La's Edsa Plaza Hotel. The debutante wears a **Rajo Laurel** creation.

ZAMORA DEBUT

Michie Marie O. Zamora, daughter of **Chie** and **Amy Zamora**, celebrated her 18th birthday on Jan. 26 at The Orchidarium and Butterfly Pavilion, Manila.

LIPA'S FAIREST

Ana Kathrina Katigbak Cabarrus was crowned Mutya ng Lipa 2001 on Jan. 19, during the grand ball held at the Plaza Independencia in Lipa City. The eldest daughter of George and Grace Cabarrus, she is 20 years old and a student at the University of Asia & the Pacific. The reception line for the ball was led by Rep. Ralph Recto and Mayor Vilma Santos-Recto.



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Sunday LIFESTYLE

A tough man named Nene

(Story on page E2)

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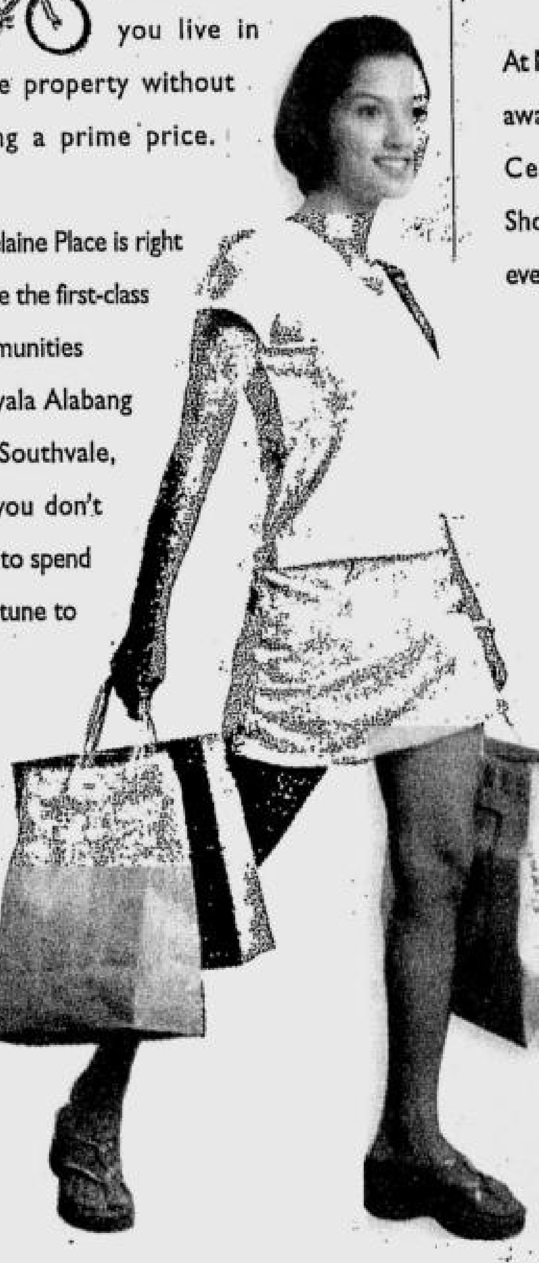

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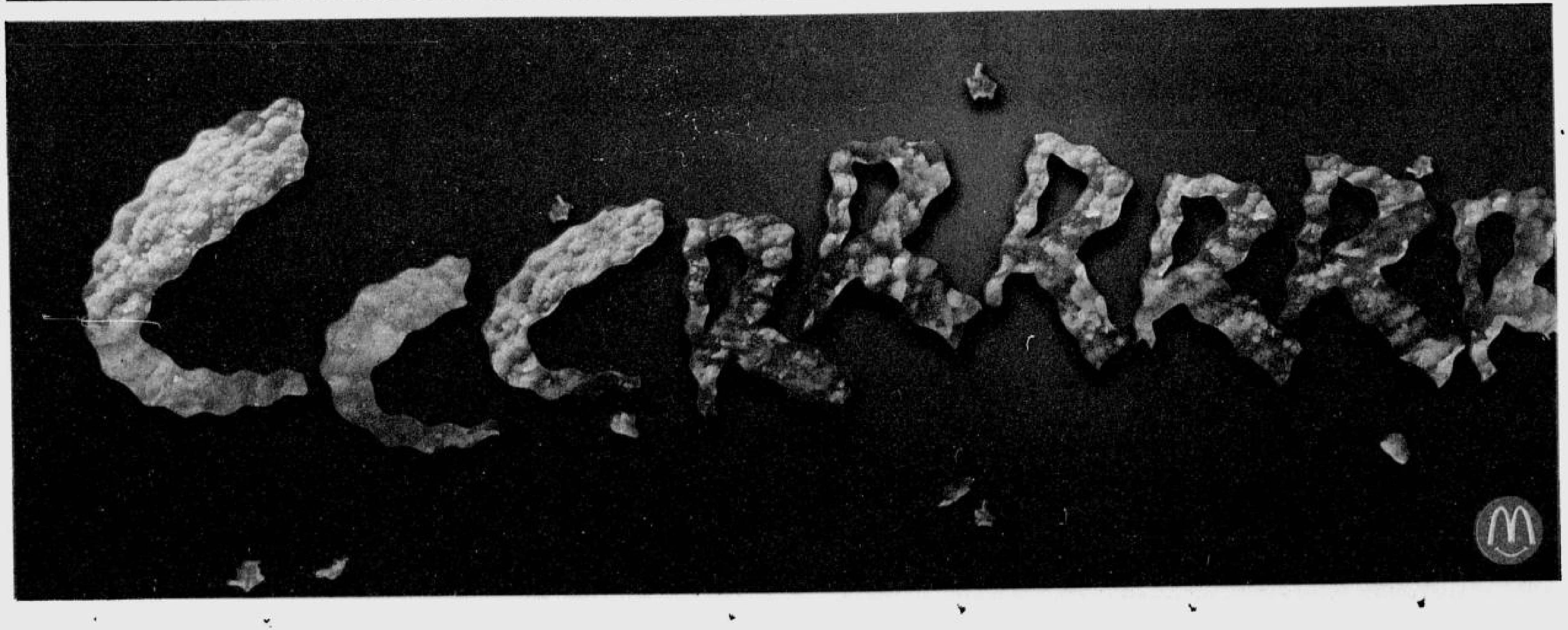

A tough man named Nene

PLAYTIME

By the staff

WHEN Aquilino O. Pimentel Jr. resigned as Senate President last Jan. 16, he represented the frustration of a nation that had given the benefit of the doubt to the impeachment trial as a barometer of the country's democratic maturity. If any act best symbolized that the nation had reached its boiling point, it was his resignation.

Judging from the collective shock, many people had thought Pimentel, Nene to his supporters, was not capable of giving up a powerful seat in the name of the truth. The shock showed the extent of the cynicism of the people. It also showed their short memory for, to be sure, Pimentel has consistently been one of our few principled politicians, one who will not accept doubts on his integrity and independent-mindedness.

Pimentel was jailed for four times by Ferdinand Marcos, the last on a blatantly trumped-up charge that he was engaged in communist ambuscades in Cebu. Already the maverick mayor of Cagayan de Oro City at that time, he was moved at the sight of the people, including the poor, raising the money to bail him out.

His unwavering stand against the Marcos regime thrust him to national prominence. Ninoy Aquino was so impressed by Nene that he predicted he would become president. But a very modest and unassuming man, Pimentel was not one to lose sleep over Ninoy's experiment with divination. He went on to form PDP-Laban as one of the key opposition vehicles that catapulted Corazon Aquino to the presidency in 1986. He became her first local government secretary and dismantled the local network for terrorism and patronage of the despot. When she let him go because of pressure from the military that perceived him as too left-leaning, she offered Pagcor as appeasement. He refused. "If I would have my way, I would abolish Pagcor," he said. A devout Catholic, Pimentel is against gambling and other vices.

It was not to be his first brush with gambling. During the Ramos presidency, he joined his fellow Cagayeños in opposing the Pagcor's plan to put up a casino in Cagayan de Oro. And last December, he opened the first-ever impeachment trial in Asia of a president who was accused of accepting payoffs from illegal gambling.

Nene became a senator in 1987, authored the Local Government Code in 1991, negotiated the surrender of coup leader Alexander Noble during the 1990 Mindanao rebellion, lost in his bid for the vice-presidency in 1992, ran again for the Senate in 1995 and got cheated of victory, and ran and became a senator again in 1998.

With the triumph of people power again, Nene has once more taken on a central role in consolidating the country's democracy. Some have remembered again Ninoy's prophecy, which, unlike Pimentel's diminutive nickname, cannot be belittled anymore.

How are you feeling today?

I think life is returning to normal. This morning I have already given instructions… There were two letters President Estrada sent over to me.

The first letter had to do with his desire to open envelope No. 2. I think that has been well-publicized. The other was his letter that said he was relinquishing the presidency or declaring his inability to discharge the duties, also dated Jan. 20. I am having copies of these letters disseminated to all the senators.

'Yun ang mga immediate matters on the plate of the Senate, in addition to the budget, which we have to tackle starting today, the power bill and then the autonomous region charter that has to be amended. I incidentally reiterated in writing my resignation because they might think I was only kidding about it. (Chuckles) I did that on Jan. 19 and I wrote all the senators telling them, "Look, my resignation stands. There is nothing conditional about it. Its effectivity is dependent on your election of my successor." The resignation is not conditional at all. It is a definite resignation. All they have to do is elect my successor.

What if they choose not to elect a successor?

In that case, I will probably have to stay on. We'll have to discuss it. I told them, "You have to hear me out. I will hear you also. I don't want it said that I am clinging on to power, maneuvering and all that stuff." Or, "That's why he went to Edsa because he wants to hang on to power." That's not in my vocabulary.

You were not even at Edsa. Weren't you just there for the inauguration?

(Smiles) Not true. I was there the night before but I purposely did not go up the stage because I was bringing the message to Cory Aquino and Cardinal Sin. I had to go back to Malacañang. I do not believe you can be an effective negotiator if you're always blurting your mouth in public for sound bites. *Mahirap 'yun eh.* People thought I wasn't there but I was there.

Is it really a new beginning for us?

I suppose, minus the *balimbings* that are now crowding around, we just might have a new beginning. (Chuckles) This matter of the *balimbings* is really dramatic. While it would temporarily lend stability to the new administration, in the long run it would destroy everything we have been fighting for. Assuming *mga* personal agenda *na 'yun—marami nang mga* political demands—a new beginning can hardly be established on that basis. *Medyo natatakot ako d'yan.*

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PHOTOS: JESS YUSON

Ang daming nagsasabi na ganyan lang tayo sa umpisa tapos balik na naman sa dati.

That's what I'd like to caution the new President about. There has to be a qualitative change in the way we do things. I think Edsa 2 is qualitatively different from Edsa 1. Edsa 2 was people-led—you know, demon-strations against the government on which the military eventually supported. Edsa 1 was a military-led withdrawal of support from Marcos and the people supported it. Now, *kitang-kita ko* because I was in both—*mga bata na ito eh*. They were shouting, "Pi-men-tel!" I could not move. *Sabi ko*, my God, what is this all about? It accelerates your heart to know that young people care for this country and that's good. That's why Gloria cannot afford to disappoint them. There has to be a qualitative change in the way the government is being run. Corruption has to be stamped out. And poverty, which breeds a lot of other ills, has to be the top priority. I hope it is not only in the words that she said about poverty in her inaugural speech, but action. *Sayang.*

Were you able to develop a friendship with Chief Justice Davide during the 24-day trial?

The chief justice is an acquaintance, you might even say a friend, of mine, in the Constitutional Convention days. We worked together. As a matter of fact, during the impeachment trial, there were four of us—Sen. Raul Roco, Teofisto Guingona, the chief justice and I—in that historic and infamous Constitutional Convention. Of course, I denounced the outcome of that convention and went to jail for it, Tito also for some time. That's where we parted ways with Roco and the chief justice. Of course, we continued our sort of close interaction. When he was chief justice and after my reelection to the Senate, I was named as the Senate's representative to the Judicial and Bar Council, of which the chief justice is the presiding officer. In other words, our relationship started long before the impeachment trial began.

People are saying that your resignation that Tuesday night triggered everything. What has been the public response to you since that day?

I have simply been humbly overwhelmed by the adulation that I would say is perhaps undeserved… *Nagulat lang ako.* (Chuckles) I could sense already prior to the voting that the lines were being drawn that early, and I did not want that. In all the previous controversial issues—my colleagues in the Senate will bear me out—I have always have tried to maintain the solidity of the Senate and thereby preserve its reliability as an impartial arbiter in the issue of the impeachment of the President. I did not want that we should have a voting that early because I could already foresee. Once you have a voting, *hindi na maiwasan 'yung, "Aba! Lintik na senador 'yan pabor kay* Erap!" *Lalong masisira 'yung* institution. So suggestions were had. *Pwede bang pag-usapan natin*? That was the first style I used whenever controversial issues erupted during the impeachment trial. So I started to count. I talked to people. And I already knew the count would be nine (without me) and 11. If I went with the 11, I could always say, "My vote would not have mattered." My 12th vote would have been a superfluity because at 11 they already had the majority. In one of the breaks, *kasi maraming* breaks *'yun*; I wanted to look for my wife, to find out where she was because I wanted to talk to somebody about this issue "*Ano ba ang dapat gawin dito*?" But she was not there so it was probably providential because I decided to talk to God. "*Panginoon, tulungan mo ako dito.*" (Laughs) I went to the bathroom and splashed water on my face, then I went back and signaled the sergeant-at-arms to call the session. So the vote started. I was last [to vote]. The vote stood at 11 to nine. I decided to vote yes, to open the envelope, and added because of the result of the voting, I am now with the minority, I have to resign. That's it.

Did that decision to resign just come to you when you were already seated there?

In the bathroom *pa*. I was already thinking about it because *nasi*-sense *ko na*.

It was a heaven-sent decision probably. After that, my usual style is to sit back and hang my arms. (Laughs) I did not realize until Davide banged the gavel for adjournment and they came up with tears in their eyes. *Ako naman, hindi umiyak, pero* my eyes are usually watery because of the flashes [from cameras] and all that.

But you looked really heart-broken.

Probably so because I realized the impact of that decision where the Senate blocked in effect the search for truth. That was what the impeachment trial was all about—search for truth. And you blocked the search for truth, my goodness! *Siguro mas maintindihan ng mga kababayan natin* but I think my reasoning was very simple. Mendoza was arguing the contents are irrelevant and immaterial, but how do you know until you open it? You have to open that *para makita mo kung* material o relevant *ba*.

How did you feel when Senators Drilon, Magsaysay, Leviste came up to you?

I was tempted to ask, "What are you crying about?" (Laughter) *Si* Roco, *si* Cayetano. Loren was sobbing. She was not only shedding tears.

You said you were looking for your wife for someone to talk to. Is that something you usually do?

(Sighs) Believe it or not, it was only in this issue. *Marami namang naging* issues—US bases, visiting forces, no to Marcos, no to Cory on

A BRAVE/ p.E4

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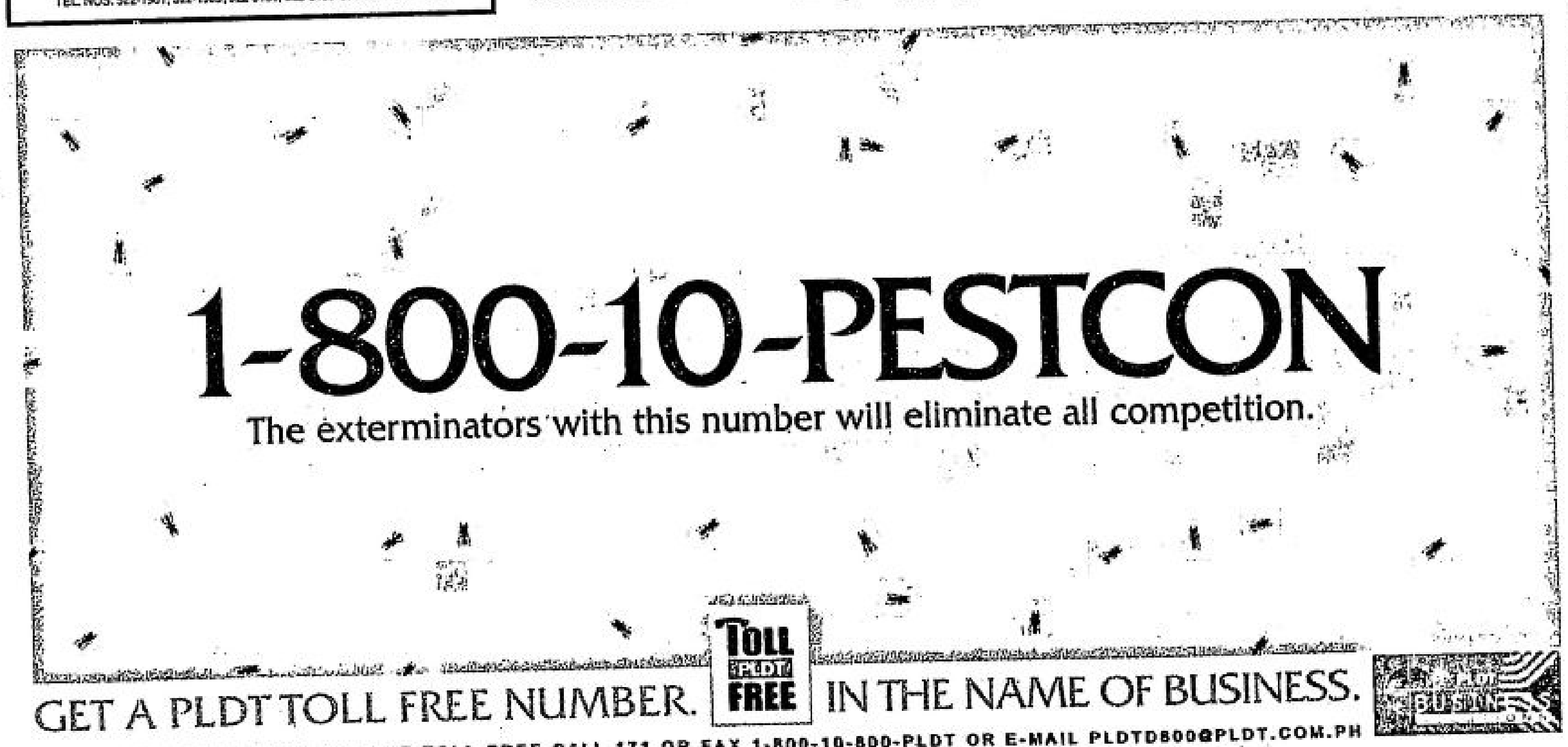

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Scholarship grants for young Filipinos who wish to study abroad

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I'm writing about the problem of the lady who would like to major in music therapy. Please tell her she can inquire from the Philippine American Educational Foundation. It has a lot of information on financial aid. Also, there is this embark.com website which is also useful, which offers courses in her field. Some schools recognize that Filipino students have been educated in English and waive some requirements.

A PDI READER

Thank you for your caring letter. The exact address of the Philippine American Educational Foundation (PAEF) right now is 3/F 395 Senator Gil J. Puyat Ave., Makati City, tels. 895-3037/3215. Those hoping to be able to study abroad can write for information to their Educational Adviser. Their e-mail: paefadv@ info.comph. This coming April their address will be 10/F Ayala Life Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Another reader, currently a premed student in San Antonio, Texas has written about a website made especially for international students in search of educational funding. The e-mail was blurred, but those who would like to know the exact website can e-mail the writer at ualbam@ lake.oilusa.edu for inquiries.

This thoughtful letter-writer explained that the International Educational Financial Aid Website (Iefa) is the premier Internet resource for financial aid information for international students wishing to study in a foreign country. It has a comprehensive listing of grants, scholarships, loan programs and other information to assist students in their pursuit to study abroad. There are universities with grants available regardless of country of origin or their field of study. This writer wishes Martha the best of luck and hopes that her dream of serving those in need of her talent and comfort comes true. I'm sure Martha has received by now his message. I'm publishing this because I know there are many young Filipinos and Filipinas hoping to study abroad.

On home wreckers

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

WHEN I read your column (PDI Lifestyle, 12/03/00), I was disappointed because you even praised the home wrecker instead of telling her that her activity is a sin of fornication and the Bible specifically says all fornications, adulterers will not enter the kingdom of God.

Telling her the truth is better than telling her she is "a bright lady." Jesus said you shall know that the truth shall set you free. The Bible says everybody is a sinner, everybody is tempted based on three types of sins: lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and the pride of life.

You should have advised her to surrender her life to Jesus Christ, start looking for a church where she can hear and listen to the word of God, so that she can start a new life in Christ and turn away from sin.

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401 Century Imperial Palace Suites
Timog corner T. Morato, QC

You just don't know how grateful I am for your comments, that of Mike van Reenen and that of two other ladies. You see, her letter was cool and did not openly ask for my advice, as you must have read. My friends even told me it was clear I just wrote my answer with my left hand.

You see, my respected critics, I was really hoping that a parish priest or some nuns would write me scathing criticisms. I did not expect that the reaction would come from the faithful laity.

To quote part of Mike's long letter: "I feel that your reply to the Home Wrecker was so inept and as a Christian, it is my duty to tell you how I feel.

"If you think I am being harsh of my judgment of her, consider the facts and compare her ally-cat behavior with that of a *burikat*. A prostitute offers sex for money, no ties and she does not expect favors from her client. Most of all, she does not involve the family of her client, and whether she is a GRO, a street girl or a call girl, she accepts money and that is the end of her story.

"By her own admission, that writer sets out to seduce someone to get everything she wants in life. She has no shame in admitting she seduced her latest boss and milked him.

"I acknowledge that some married men do not have the moral fiber to withstand attraction of a pretty woman… more so if that woman sets out to get him. However, one never knows the circumstances that lead them to succumb to these charms. It may be a crisis in the marriage, unhappy, but cannot be ended because of religious considerations, or sexually unsatisfactory. It could also be that the man is sexually promiscuous. But if one is a Christian and has a decent moral upbringing, he cannot be tempted to break marriage vows.

"What really sticks in my craw is the fact that you end your comments by saying, 'Don't forget to look up to the Lord and thank Him for His guidance.' If ever there was hypocrisy, this is it."

Thank you very much, Mike. Your comments will awaken her and other women in the same field. By the way, what you interpreted as hypocrisy was not really meant to be such. What I was hoping was that she would wake up, look up to the Lord, realize her wrongdoings, and ask for strength and wisdom to guide her as a woman in deep contrition. And since my gentle answer may not have moved her to reform, I am so delighted you wrote your piece.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

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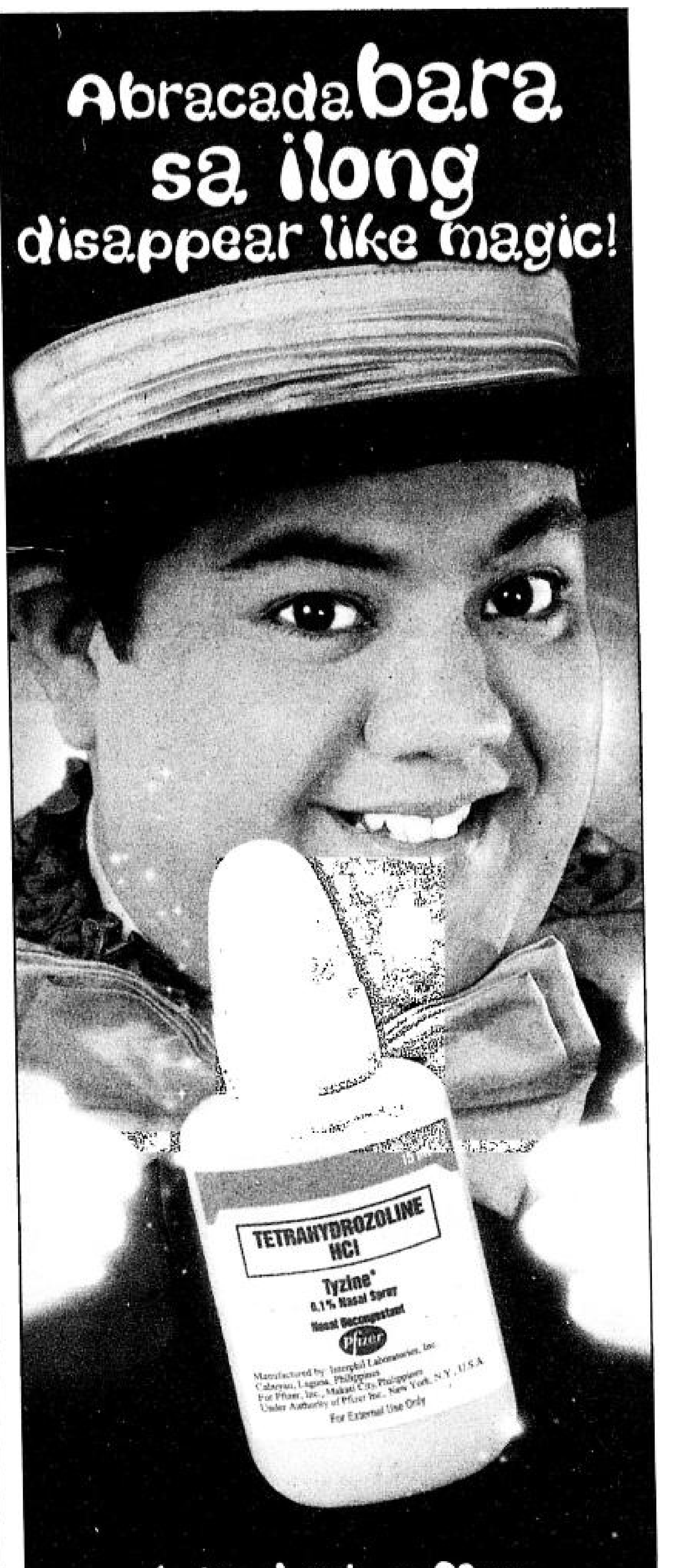

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Pag may clogged nose, maga ang nasal passages sa loob ng ilong. 'Di makalusot ang hangin kaya hirap kang huminga. Kailangan mo ng relief na mabilis. Now, get it fast with New Tyzine Nasal Spray. Just a few sprays acts directly on swollen nasal passages which cause a clogged nose. Bilis tanggal ang pamamaga. Bilis disappear ang bara sa ilong. For relief that's fast, relief that lasts. O, hinga na!

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1. Tilt head slightly forward and hold the bottle upright.
2. Gently insert the nozzle into your nostril.
3. Squeeze quickly and firmly.
4. Wipe nozzle clean after use.

Do not use continuously for more than a week.
Always read label directions.
If symptoms persist, consult your doctor.

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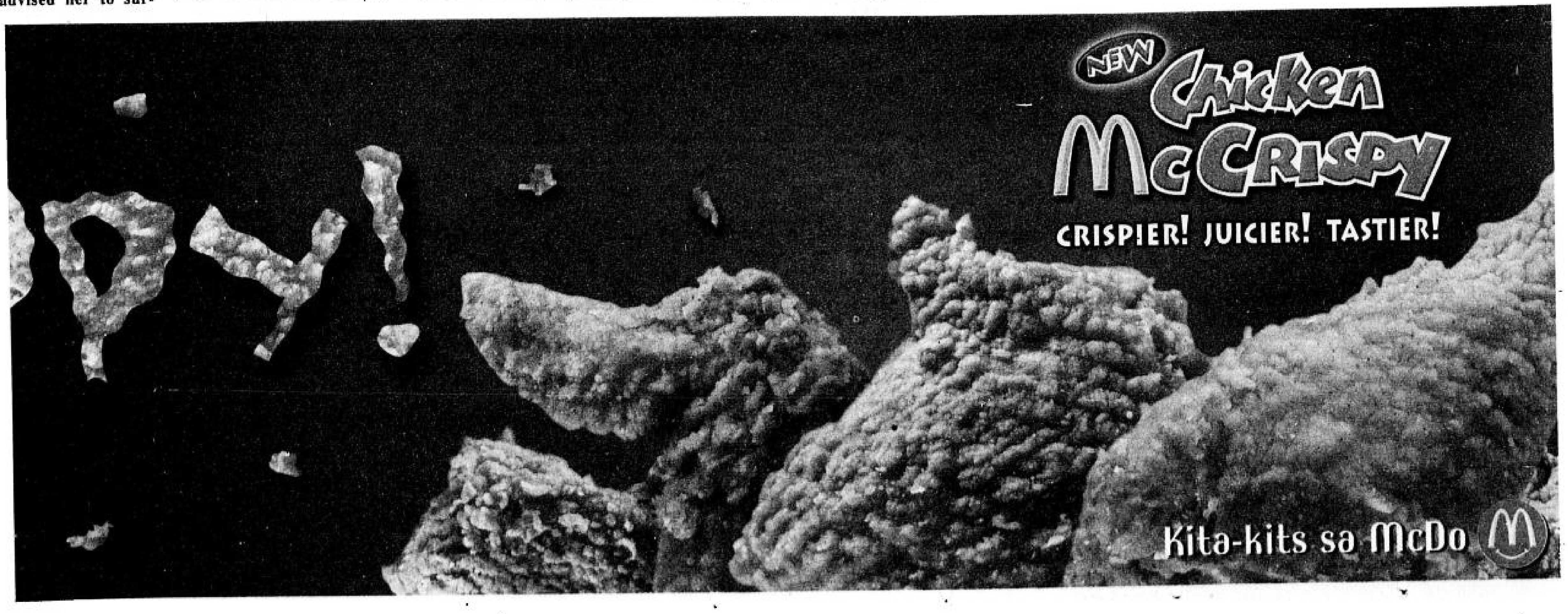


A tough man named Nene

(From page E2)

certain issues. Mostly… *alam mo*, male chauvinist *ako*! (Laughter) I do not usually consult my wife but my wife would talk to me, but many times I tend to overrule her in the name of… male supremacy! (Laughter)

Do you discuss the day's proceedings with your wife before going to bed?

No. Up to that point she never knew. For example, at the impeachment proceeding, she would never know because I never told her which way I would go. And I think the public saw that, too.

What do you call your wife?

Nanay.

And she calls you?

Tatay.

You have photographs of your grandchildren in your office. How many do you have?

Apat na ngayon. A new one was born about two months ago.

How are you as a grandfather? Doting *daw*.

Yeah. I'm so blessed *siguro*. (Laughs) I was very strict with my children. That was before the law prohibited, you know, belting them. (Laughs)

How many children do you have?

Only six by one wife. (Guffaws) One of the blessings that I count in my life is the fact that all my children are gainfully employed on their own. I have a daughter in L.A. She is teaching in the unified school… My other daughter is in Washington, D.C., working in a Japanese electric company in nuclear research. Four are here. I have two sons. Only one son is a lawyer, *si* Koko, and [the other is an] orthopedic surgeon. His wife is also a doctor of dermatology. My son and she went home directly to Cagayan from their specialization. My fourth daughter has her own little store but she's also finishing law right now. Umm… did I omit somebody? I hope not. (Chuckles) Of course, Gwen is here. She's a lawyer, too.

How many are in law now? *Bali* three?

Yes, because the third one is finishing her law in Cagayan de Oro.

You've never discouraged them from going into politics?

No, I have not. But I have never encouraged them particularly to take up law. There are already so many lawyers that are making trouble for this country. (Laughs) I think we need more builders like scientists. But they decided to take up law.

Your children turned out well. . .

I'm very happy none of them... My boys, for example, don't even smoke. If they drink it's only social drinking.

Would you attribute that to your being a disciplinarian?

Probably so because I'm also a nonsmoker. They didn't even smoke marijuana and did not inhale. (Laughter)

Your children never rebelled?

(Laughs) Oh, my son, Koko, rebelled, but not against me. He saw me being picked up and thrown to jail during martial law when he was growing up. When he was in the Ateneo de Manila, he almost did not graduate in high school because he would not take up CAT. He just refused.

Going back to your wife, she must be very proud of you.

I suppose overproud *'yun*! (Laughs)

When you got home that night, what happened?

She was watching television at the house. And when I finally cast my vote, "*Ah, nag*-resign *na*!" (Laughter) That was her reaction.

Was she happy you resigned?

It was just one of those things she would expect I would do. She was not crying or anything.

I thought she was happy because you would be coming home early now. (Laughter) Workaholic *daw kayo eh*.

Ay, grabe ako magtrabaho! (Laughs) Look at this. (Shows his right pinky finger) *'Yang bukol-bukol na 'yan* is the effect of six to seven hours on the computer.

Is there pain?

No.

You use the computer *pala*.

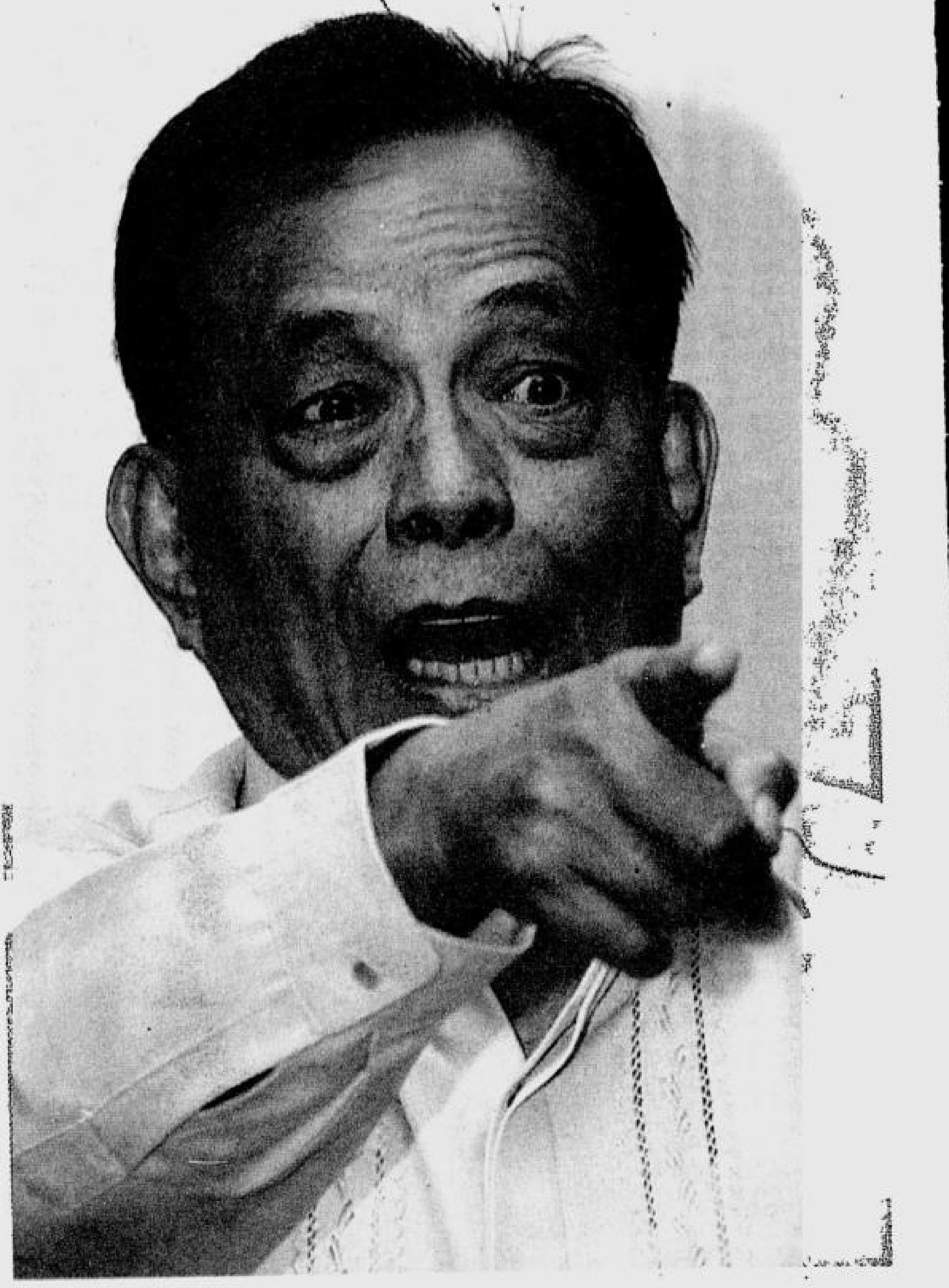
Oh yeah, I do.

Do you surf the Net?

Yes, of course. I'm used to writing books. I cannot imagine—without the computer I don't know how Rizal wrote "El Filibusterismo." (Laughs) *Talagang hangang-hanga ako.*

What is your greatest strength as a person?

I tend to look at things and see the black or the white and very little shades of gray, and that makes me a terrible politician. *Grabe*! (Chuckles)



What is your schedule like?

My normal sleeping hours is five hours. I'm old already. When you're old, your body clock changes also. (Chuckles) Even without the impeachment trial, I work until 11 p.m., sometimes 12 mn, and wake up at 4 a.m. or earlier. I start writing or replying to e-mail. Believe it or not, on the day I voted yes, when I opened my e-mail on that particular day, I received 255! So I said, "How am I gonna answer?" (Laughs) Fantastic! The following day I received 115 e-mail, in addition to the text messages.

Were there any negative reactions?

All positive. There were some questions like, "*Bakit naman gan'un ginawa ninyo*?" but nothing *'yung*, "*Mali 'yun*."

***Ang dami sigurong nagsasabi na* you cannot resign.**

Yes. *Maraming nagsabi na* you should not resign, you stay on your assignment, you did what is right. But I have never been swayed, particularly by public adulation, because I keep on recalling what they did to Jesus Christ—Palm Sunday they were saying "Hallelujah!" but one week later they crucified him. *Gan'un lang ang buhay.* Remember that public opinion can be very fickle. That is a reminder to all public servants—to always, every day, keep earning the trust and confidence of the people.

Was becoming a politician your dream even when you were still studying?

I think so. I can say that honestly because my grandfather was the mayor of a small town in Claveria, Misamis Oriental, where I was born. My father became the city council of Cagayan de Oro. I'm used to our house being full of people. Sometimes they have to come in and eat your breakfast. (Laughs) Part of the political milieu.

What did your wife have to say about your being a politician?

She's my No. 1 supporter. A politician has to convince his wife to support him. *Kung hindi, mahihirapan siya.* Like a barnacle in the back… It is very difficult for a politician to be fighting two fronts—the political front and his home front. *Mahirap eh.*

If you were not in politics where would you be?

In the academe, teaching.

You like teaching?

Oh, yes! I think it is the only profession where you can directly mold the thinking of people who will be coming after you. Even in law school, I think there's a subject on legal ethics. I think that should be given more weight than ever before. This is where the problem in our country will arise. Lawyers would close their eyes to what is right and say, "Where's the pay?" and that's it.

Isn't that the normal career path of a lawyer, from a low-paying job to a high-paying job? (Laughter)

(Laughs) In fairness, I also did not like what [witness Jazmin] Banal said, that it's the usual practice to sign blank [corporation] papers as…:

In their law office that's the usual practice, she said.

Parang sinabi niya sa law profession *yata. Masama 'yun.* (Laughs)

You were a professor in a law school. Was Roco right that in law school you inject some idealism?

Law is not a business. It is a profession. I've always emphasized that.

But it is true also that most lawyers go for the money.

That's right. That's why most lawyers would hang around in Manila even if they're from the provinces, to handle a slot in one big law firm, handle corporations and all that. It really pays much more than if you have to go back to the province and go into the general practice of law.

Did you ever go into general practice?

Yes. The only reason I came to Manila was after that Constitutional Convention, I was imprisoned in Camp Crame, and one of the things you have to do upon release is to make a report. "You report to us every week" *yata* and then monthly, and then finally they forgot about it.

You had your own law office?

Yes.

What kind of cases did you handle?

I handled cases of the squatters in the *riles*.

There's no money in that.

Of course, there's no money. And some peasants being evicted in Central Luzon, I handled their cases, too.

Pro bono *din yon*.

Yes. But I told them, "I will insist you pay me what you can afford." It looks bad *kung parang* dole-out *lang*. "I will not insist you pay me so many thousands, just what you can afford."

***Ano naman ang na*-afford *nila*?**

Itlog. (Laughter)

Baka abunado pa kayo.

Yes, especially when you make the pleadings and you have to go to the Supreme Court. There are memoranda. *Kailangan* so many copies *'yun eh* every time you file. At that time I think the requirement was 15 or 16 copies. *Ang dami nun, makapal.* It costs money.

Do you still have a home in Cagayan de Oro?

Yes.

How often do you go?

(Sighs) Whew! I wish I could go more often, but once a month would be a miracle already. I would go home as often because I would like to swim in its beach. The beaches are clean, comparatively speaking.

What do you do to unwind?

I read. I exercise. I swim.

What are you reading these days?

The last one was on ethics. (Chuckles) "Ethica Principia."

Do you cook at all? Do you garden?

Yes, sometimes I do. And I'm a very good cook.

***Talaga*? What's your specialty?**

Fried eggs. (Laughter)

At least you can cook breakfast.

Oh, yes. *Champorado* and *lugaw*.

Are you a good swimmer?

Yes, I think so.

Did you swim competitively?

No, just for my health.

You're a son of Cagayan de Oro, what about you is Cagayan de Oro?

Cagayan de Oro is a conservative town. They have religious values… when I was growing up anyway. They were very pronounced. Movies were closed on Holy Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, so next Monday *na*. (Chuckles) Probably the reason for that is Xavier University was a very strong influence in the lives of people in Cagayan de Oro. But now it has become more cosmopolitan. You know, *jueteng*… (Laughter)

Did you know how to play *jueteng* before this thing came out?

No. Up to now I still don't know. I don't gamble *kasi eh*.

Were you also raised by a strict father?

Not really. My father was a smoker—three packs a day—and he was a gambler, too. Man about town, you might say. He was a lawyer. My mother was a public schoolteacher, who died as a teacher, refusing to be promoted from a Grade 1 schoolteacher to other positions. She just refused. She loved to be with children. That was how my life was like in Cagayan de Oro. Of course, the environment in which you grew up would have a tremendous effect on you and your attitudes in life. There are certain values that stick with you no matter where you might wind up later on in life.

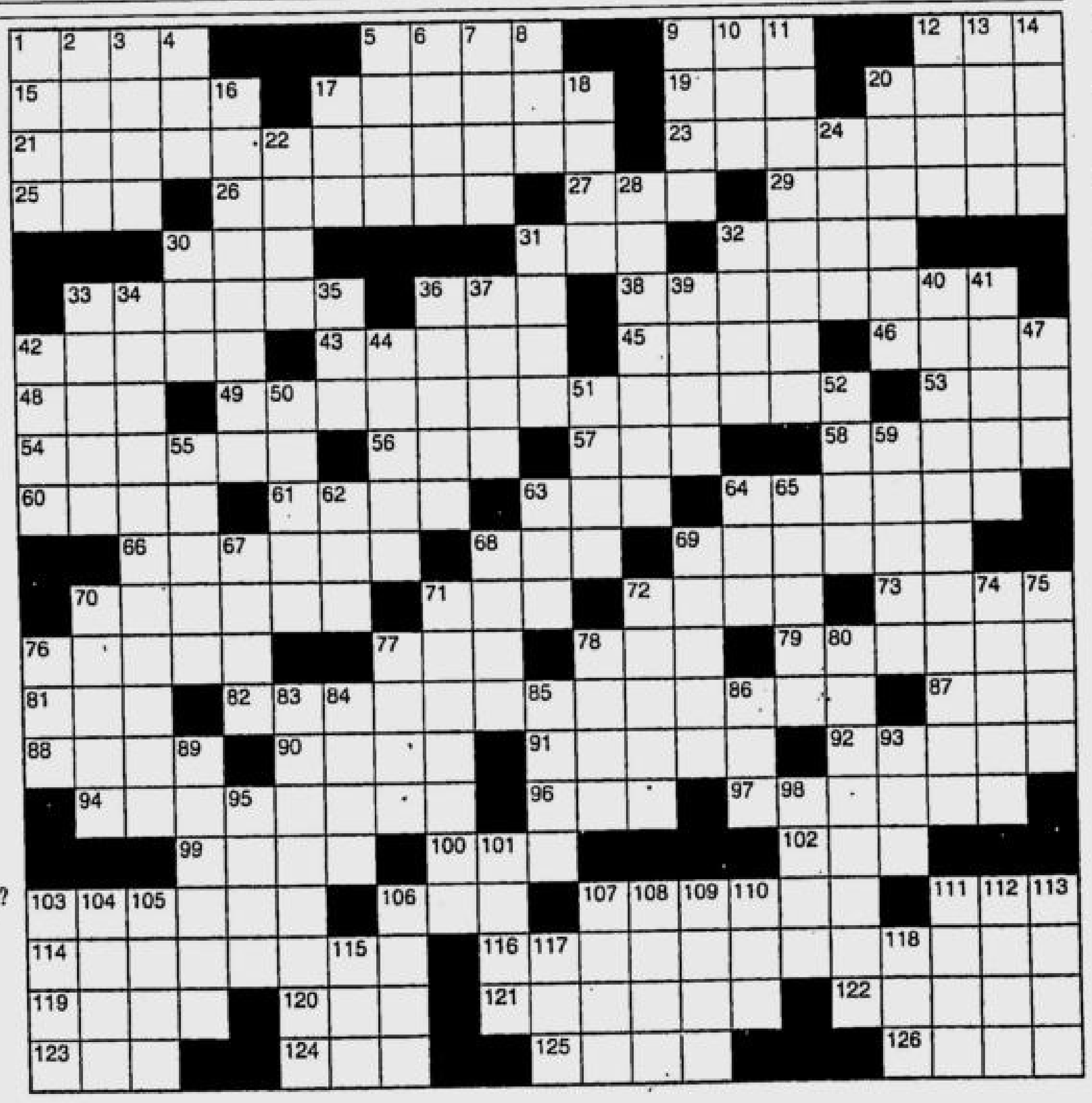
Can you imagine going back to Cagayan de Oro and running as mayor?

Maybe I'm too old for that already because the job of mayor is very demanding. But after my stint

A BRAVE/ p.E6

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PUNBLICATIONS



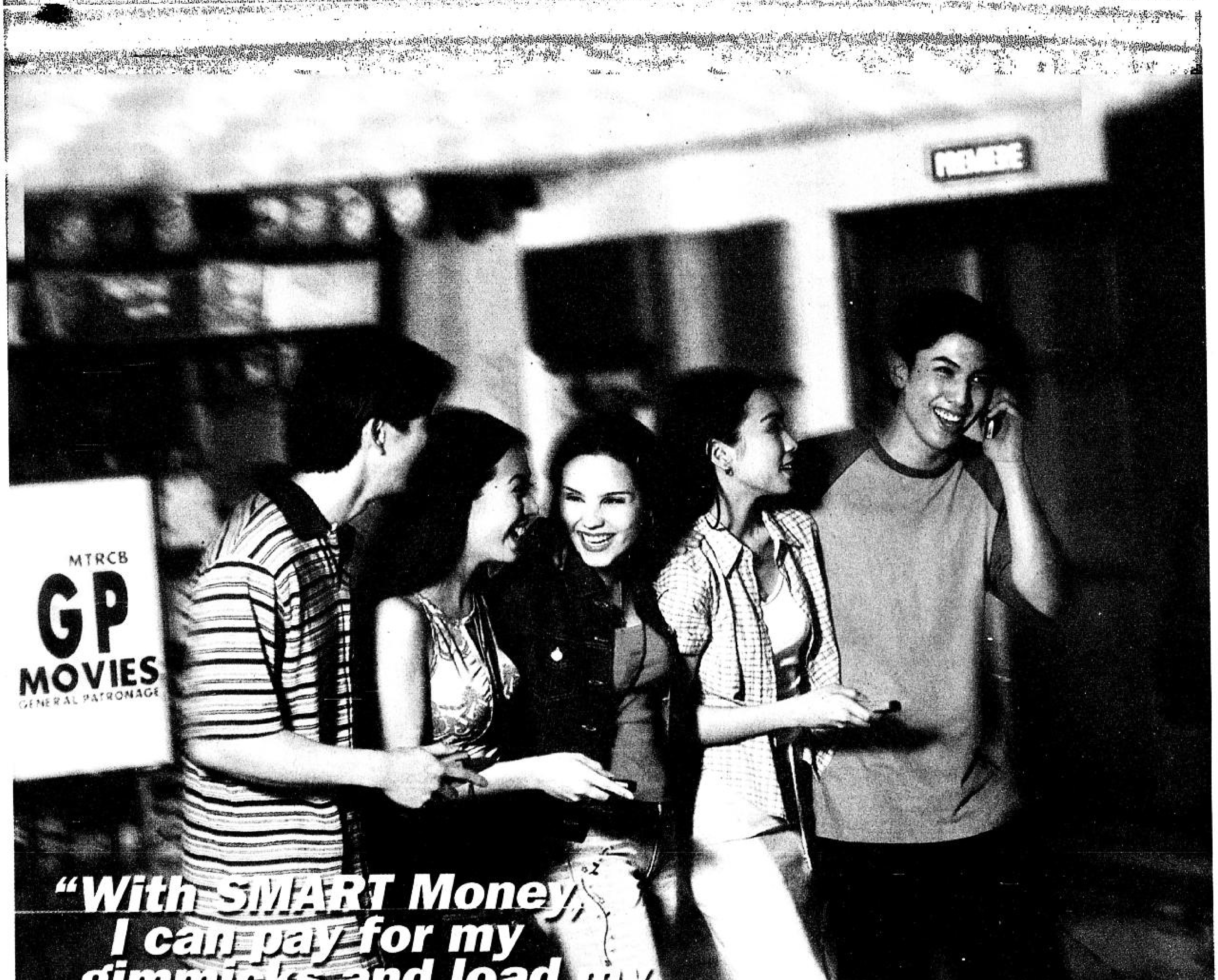
ACROSS
1 Move like a mouse
5 Neighbor of Java
9 "— Medicine" ('88 hit)
12 Corpulent
15 Early computer
17 TV's "— Heroes"
19 Campbell of UB40
20 Poorly
21 Restaurant critic's zine?
23 Librarian's journal?
25 Explosive initials
26 Column
27 Max — Sydow
29 Bunch of ballplayers
30 Solidify
31 Weber's "— Freischutz"
32 Prepared to drive
33 Let up
36 Arthur or Pons
38 — carrier
42 Snapshot
43 — Lama
45 Strained
46 DEA officer
48 Browning's bedtime?
49 Gardener's monthly?
53 — -jongg
54 Hymns of praise
56 Viper
57 Milne creature
58 Digression
60 Gouda alternative
61 — River, NJ
63 Tenor Peerce
64 Like Simon
66 Groovy Austin
68 Pugilistic poke
69 Stephen King book
70 Mutiny
71 Produce a parka
72 — fide
73 Byzantine art form
76 Pants parts
77 Ram's ma'am
78 Directional suffix
79 Sock style
81 Feign
82 Tree surgeon's periodical?
87 Middling mark
88 Whippet's wagger
90 Enormous
91 Terpsichore's sister
92 104 Down, e.g.
94 Broadway arrangement
96 Kennel feature
97 Kitten gear?
99 Petite pie
100 Sprite
102 "— Buttermilk Sky" ('46 song)
103 Classify
106 Maestro de Waart
107 "Electric —" ('83 hit)
111 To and —
114 Sailor's reading?
116 Depression era magazine?
119 Icelandic epic
120 Capek play
121 Bring to light
122 Goatish gamboler
123 Have unpaid bills
124 "Hiver" opposite
125 "— to Order" ('87 film)
126 Highflying agcy.

DOWN
1 Adroit
2 Ever's partner
3 Crowdburst?
4 Lincoln son
5 Pipe part
6 Turkish title
7 Den
8 "Newhart" setting
9 Holstein's home
10 Flagon filler
11 Patois
12 Beat
13 Felipe, Jesus, or Matty
14 Little one
16 South African port
17 Cholesterol letters
18 Golfer Ballesteros
20 Nigerian city
22 "Aida" river
24 Forest ruminant
28 Ciceronian speech
30 "GoodFellas" gun
31 Place to pontificate
32 Correct
33 Forward
34 Rover's review?
35 Presidential monogram
36 Sanctify
37 Tombstone lawman
39 Shakespearean heavy
40 Wholesome biker's publication?
41 Carpentry or printing
42 Monsieur Le Pew
44 Patriot Samuel
47 "Evita" character
50 — Park, CO
51 Uninteresting
52 Subdue Simba
55 Pavarotti's love
59 Bit of parsley
62 Northwestern st.
63 Mouth piece?
64 Anger or envy
65 Composer Albeniz
67 Slender trace
68 Be a wise guy
69 French impressionist
70 Chingachgook's son
71 Nailed a gnat
72 Boitano or Blessed
74 New York city
75 Require
76 The Kit — Club
77 In addition
78 Stocking shade
80 Antsy
83 Opera feature
84 Future of the present
85 Medieval menial
86 — de plume
89 One of the Jacksons
93 Gobbled up
95 Apparel
98 Debtors' letters
101 Stud site
103 Lhasa —
104 Cabbage concoction
105 Philosopher
106 Bronte heroine
107 Where to find an onager
108 "Veni, vidi, —"
109 Markey or Bagnold
110 Fisherman's snare
111 Chalky cheese
112 Skates
113 Gumbo thickener
115 Absent
117 City on the Danube
118 Ashen

ANSWER ON PAGE E6

The gang's all set for our weekend mall attack! Now we're ready to hit the record bars, invade the arcade and get freaked out by the latest horror flick. My wallet's dehydrated and so is my celfone but with my SMART Money, I'm not scared at all.

SMART Money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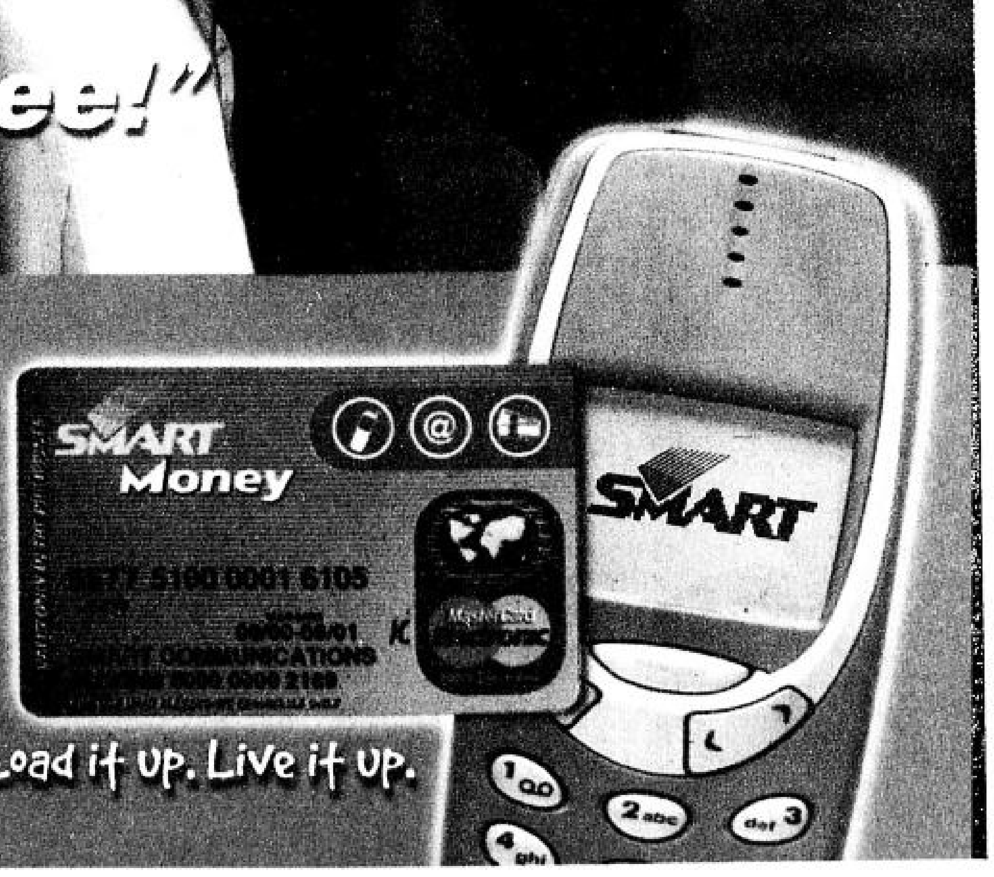
What's more, with the SIM that powers our SMART Money, we can even enjoy fun and games!



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2. *If your SMART Buddy celfone already has the SMART Money MBS SIM card, just visit the nearest SMART Telecenter to get the SMART Money MasterCard for FREE by presenting your SMART Money MBS SIM card.*
3. ***HOW TO ACTIVATE YOUR SMART MONEY MasterCard:***
   a. *Go to SMART MENU and select SMART MONEY.*
   b. *Key-in your 12-digit MCOM number (printed on your card) and press OK.*
   c. *Key in your default wireless PIN (W-PIN): 123456 and press OK.*
   d. *You will receive a confirmation message and be advised to change your W-PIN to activate your card.*
4. *All SMART Money MasterCards to be activated from January 10-31, 2001 shall be credited with Two Hundred Pesos (Php200.00) on the account 24 hours from activation.*
5. *Activation of the SMART Money MasterCard refers to the initialization of the SMART Money MasterCard with the SMART Mobile Phone prior to use as described in the SMART Money MasterCard User's Guide.*
6. *Once the Php200 value has been credited to his SMART Money MasterCard account, the cardholder will be notified via an SMS message in his SMART celfone regarding the credit of such.*
7. ***HOW TO USE YOUR SMART MONEY MasterCard:***
   Face-to-Face (In-store) Purchase
   a. *To make an in-store purchasing (face-to-face), just present your SMART Money MasterCard to the store cashier for payment of selected merchandise.*
   b. *Cashier swipes the SMART Money MasterCard in the POS terminal and keys in the purchase amount.*
   c. *If transaction is approved, message is sent to POS terminal and the sales slip is printed.*
   d. *Sign on the dotted line and you're off!*
   e. *You will receive a text confirmation of your transaction.*

   Non face-to-face (remote) Purchase
   a. *Call the store to order items, advise the order taker that you will be paying through SMART Money MasterCard.*
   b. *Give the order taker your 12-digit MCOM number.*
   c. *If transaction is validated, a payment request message is sent to your celfone.*
   d. *To accept payment request, press ACCEPT, key in your W-PIN and press OK. To cancel the transaction, click on REJECT.*
   e. *System validates your W-PIN, account status, and SMART Money funds. If details are validated, your SMART Money MasterCard account is debited.*
   f. *You will receive a text message to acknowledge your transaction.*

   Transfer value to another SMART Money MasterCard
   a. *Go to SMART MENU and select SMART MONEY.*
   b. *From SMART MONEY menu, click on TRANSFER.*
   c. *Key in the 12-digit MCOM number of the recipient party and press OK.*
   d. *Select a preset amount and press OK.*
   e. *Key in your W-PIN and press OK.*
   f. *The SMART Money MasterCard system verifies your W-PIN, account status, and SMART Money MasterCard funds. If details are validated, your SMART Money MasterCard account will then be debited and the value is transferred to the recipient.*
   g. *Both you and the recipient will receive a text message confirming the amount successfully transferred and your updated balances.*
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10. *The FREE Php 200 promo does not apply to SMART Money MasterCard Extension cardholders, whose cards are issued on behalf of the Principal cardholder and may not in any manner be linked to the SMART celfone.*
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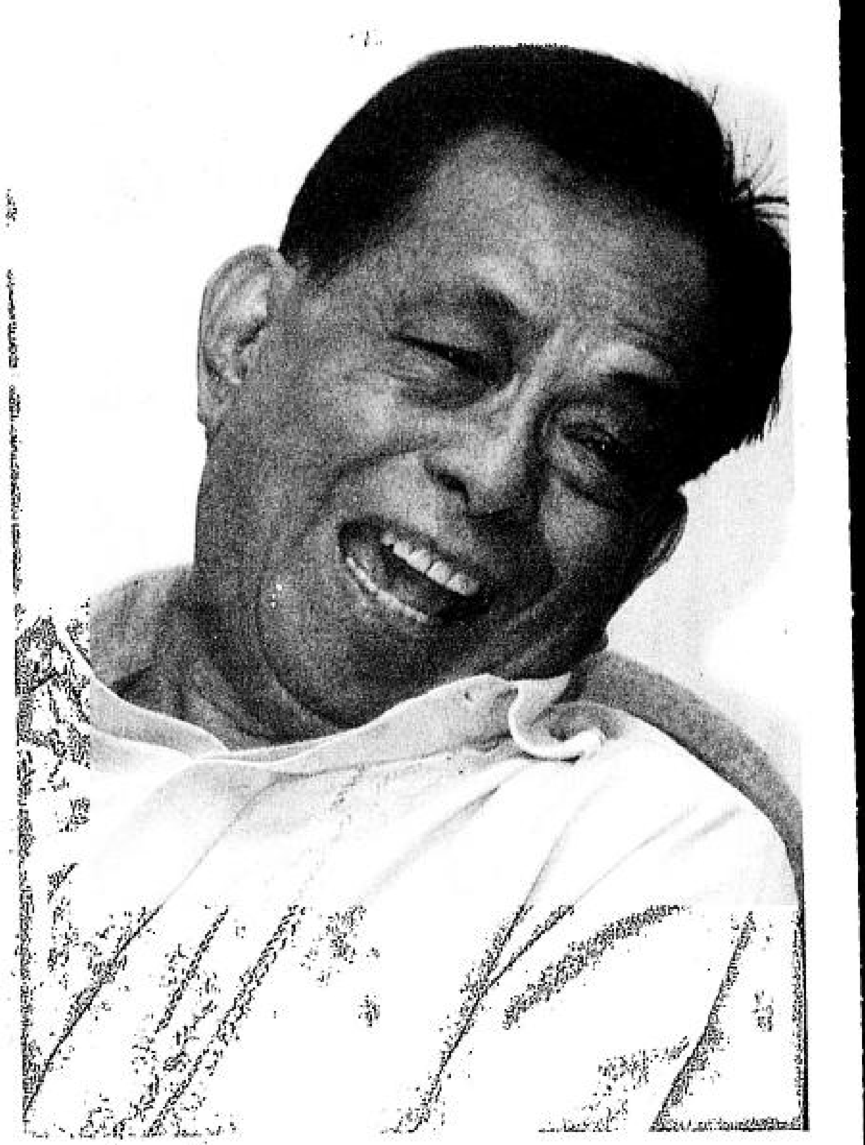
A tough man named Nene

(From page E4)



here, who knows? Politics is in the blood. (Laughs)

Would you accept the vice presidency?

No. 1, it has not been offered. No. 2, it would be presumptuous and I think impolitic of me to say, "Yes! I will accept." (Laughter)

Would you even think about it?

Let me just say I will act on it when it formally comes about, *no*? In the meantime, it's not in my priorities.

Have you heard people saying you'd probably be more effective in the Senate than as vice president?

Yes. A lot of people have been saying that.

What do you think?

I must be in a forum where I can speak my mind freely.

Where do you draw your strength? You've been through a lot of challenges.

I suppose, in all honesty, maybe prayers. I do believe that nothing in this life happens by chance. I don't believe things happen by chance. Everything is in God's plan and it is up to us to define what the plans are for you. If you don't promote your own personal interest, I think [you will] feel happier and freer than anyone on earth. That's what I've been aspiring for all my life! Even during martial law, all I wanted to do was to be free. So during the Concon... You cannot be free under martial law. I am free to say, "No." My goodness, *bakit naman hindi pwede*?

The public perception of you is all positive, do you have any weaknesses?

(Laughs) *Ang dami*!

What would you like to change?

Sometimes I get short-tempered by the insistence of some people. For example, "I want you to recommend me to this position." Some people would say, "Good! You continue the fight against Erap." And then, "Could you recommend my..." (Laughter)

How do you deal with people like that?

In my younger days I would probably show them the door. Goodbye! (Chuckles) But this time, I'm a little more considerate... We're living in an imperfect world. People have different ways of looking at things, different ways of saying things. So no matter how distasteful, I try to look at what he says than how he says it. What is it that he wants? So I try to figure that out. So I tend to be a little bit more... *'yung nag-iisip muna bago mag*-take *ng* action ... you hurt people in the process, which I don't want to do.

What do you do when you're angry?

I bite my tongue. Sometimes, *kung hindi na talaga*... I can be very blunt. If I don't like what you're saying, there's nothing much I can do about it. For example, "Senator, I have been rejected twice by the US Embassy. Please write a note to them." I say, "It will worsen your situation because I voted to remove the US bases." (Laughter)

It's about time we change. Not everything should depend on a politician's act as if if I write a letter—"Open sesame! There you are!" What if I'm not around anymore? You'll look for another politician?

But right now *mabangong-mabango kayo*.

Probably. But I feel that when people make mistakes, there's no better time to tell them there's a better way of doing it than the time they made the mistake. One of the tasks a politician must be aware is that of a teacher. If our people cannot learn anything from you then you might as well not be there.

Where did you teach?

I taught in law school in San Beda, Far Eastern University and, of course, back home.

Were you a terror?

Oh, yes!

***Hindi kayo mataas magbigay ng* grade?**

You have to earn every percentage point.

Are you strict about attendance?

Also. Don Don Bagatsing was one of my students in the college of law. He was the son of the mayor and I said, "I don't care if you're the son of the President."

Was he a good student?

Tamad. (Laughter) *May utak*. He did not get honors because I refused to raise his grades. I was probably the only one who caused him not to get the honors.

He will remember you for that.

Oh, yes, he remembers me! He used to remind me, "*Ikaw talaga*, sir." (Laughs)

What is your greatest strength as a person?

I tend to look at things and see the black or white and very little shades of gray, and that makes me a terrible politician. *Grabe*! (Chuckles)

Are you a religious man?

I pray. I'm a regular Mass-goer. I read the Bible, too, every now and then.

Have you always been a churchgoer and a Bible reader?

Yes. Probably more so in my younger days.

Did you go to a Catholic school?

Yes, *doon sa amin sa* Ateneo de Cagayan. That's where I had my schooling all the way up to College of Law. I never had any schooling elsewhere. That's why I sometimes pronounce "J" as in goat sometimes. (Laughs)

How did you pray the night of Tuesday, when you were about to sleep?

"Thank you, Lord." (Laughs)

When the voting was going on, what were the thoughts running in your head?

How to couch my explanation on why I was voting yes.

> Edsa 2 was people-led . . . Edsa was a military-led . . . Now, *kitang-kita ko* because I was in both—*mga bata na ito eh*. They were shouting, 'Pi-men-tel!' I could not move. *Sabi ko*, my God, what is this all about? It accelerates your heart to know that young people care for this country and that's good. That's why Gloria cannot afford to disappoint them

How did you feel about the Senate majority that voted?

I felt terrible because I really thought it could have been avoided. Had they allowed a caucus to be held, then the chief would have been given a chance to speak out. Incidentally, shortly before the voting, I told the chief, "We're going to lose it. So if you make a ruling you will be overruled." *Alam na n'ya 'yun*.

On hindsight, do you think the hand of God was there?

No question. God works in mysterious ways. Who would have known that that would trigger... In fact, Cory and Cardinal Sin told me it was my resignation that enabled them to call people back to Edsa.

Are you going to write a book about the trial?

Yes, sure.

Are you in the process now?

Yes.

Did you keep a journal?

Yes.

Why do you think are we able to do People Power here, and they're not able to do it in Indonesia and other places?

I think God really has a special interest in this nation. Long before Edsa 1 or Edsa 2, I said Magellan could have landed in Sarawak, but he landed here.

It's our fate?

Divine protection, I think. We are a chosen people, I think.

Would there have been People Power without Cardinal Sin?

I wonder. *Malaking* influence *'yun talaga*.

What do we do when he's gone?

Look for another one... (Laughter)

Who's gonna replace him just in case some future President doesn't live up to the role?

(Chuckles) People, I think. Edsa People Power is becoming a habit. (Laughter)

***Doon pa lang meron nang mga* placards saying, "We're watching you."**

Yeah. One of the things that really matters here in this last upheaval is the fact that we have free speech, free newspapers, radio and television, and instant communication. In other words, from Aparri to Tawi-Tawi, people knew what was happening. The ones in power like Erap come along and say, "*Dito lang kami. Hindi na pwede*." The people know *na*, on their own, *alam na nila*.

What is your attitude toward the media?

The media here in the Philippines is not only free, it is licentious. (Laughter) You can always attack me. It's okay. But allow me to attack you also. (Laughter) It makes things fair.

***Pero huwag naman* boycott.**

The truth is, I think it was Thomas Jefferson who said, "It is better to have an abusive media than no media at all." *Paminsan-minsan naman sana* when there is a critical columnist, [we] can always write an explanation...

We don't do that in the INQUIRER?

Sometimes. (Laughter)

What can you say is your greatest achievement as far as your political career is concerned?

Not too many people realize that probably the most revolutionary piece of legislation in this country ever was the Local Government Code. And I authored that. I steered it through the first Congress when I was a senator.

Aren't you disappointed that sometimes the Malacañang power holder waters down the local government authority?

They don't know what they're doing. Because there is a revolution on power, *huwag na nilang pakialaman kung ano'ng ginagawa doon sa baba*.

You felt you were close to death during the Noble ordeal in 1989. Did you feel the same way now?

Iba. The atmosphere was different. In the Noble uprising, I flew to Cagayan de Oro not even knowing whether we could land at the airport. Noble was supposed to be in control of the port in Cagayan de Oro and of the other military camps in the area. It was a touchy thing. As I said, I don't lose sleep over this darn thing. (Laughs)

But you wrote a good memo to Cory then.

Yes, I reported to her what transpired.

So now you're going to write your book?

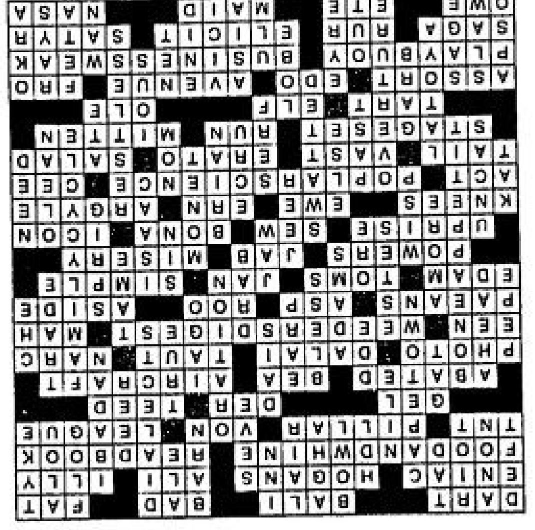
Oh, well, I'll write about the inside story on the impeachment.

When will it be out?

(Sighs) Whew! Probably with editing, *siguro* in a month or so. I'm almost through.

> **What do you call your wife?** Nanay. **And she calls you?** Tatay

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



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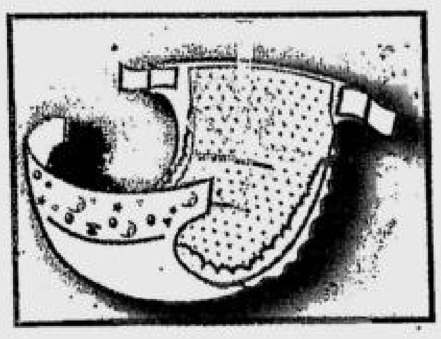

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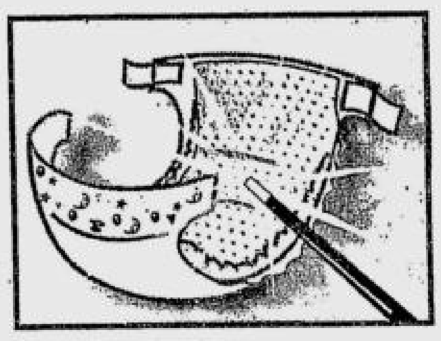

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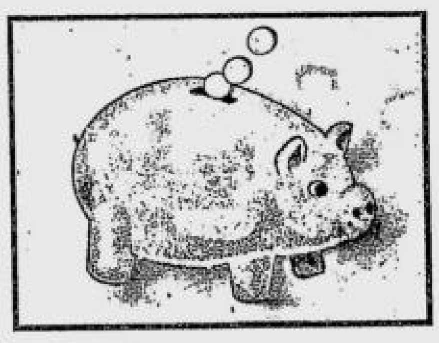

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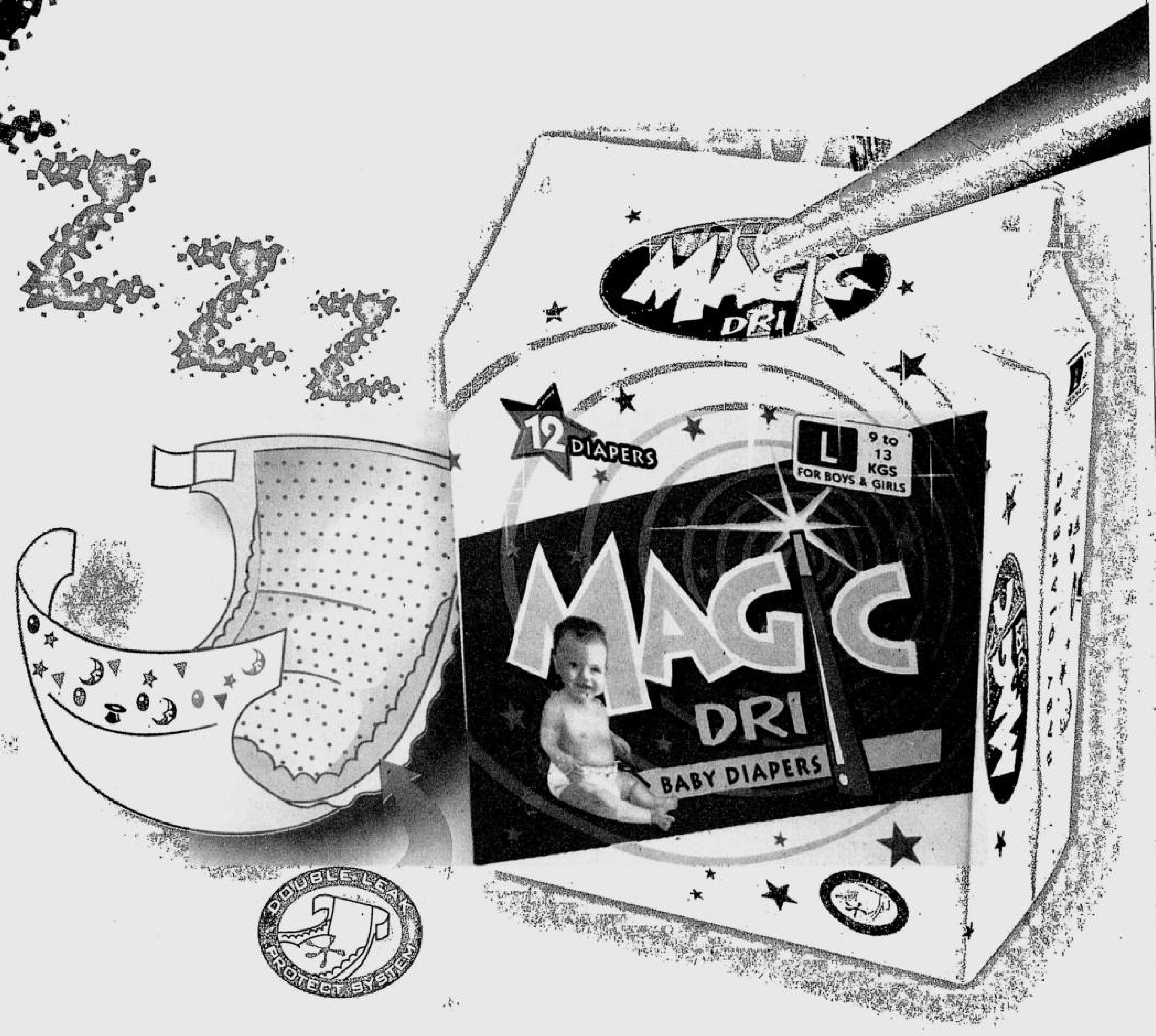
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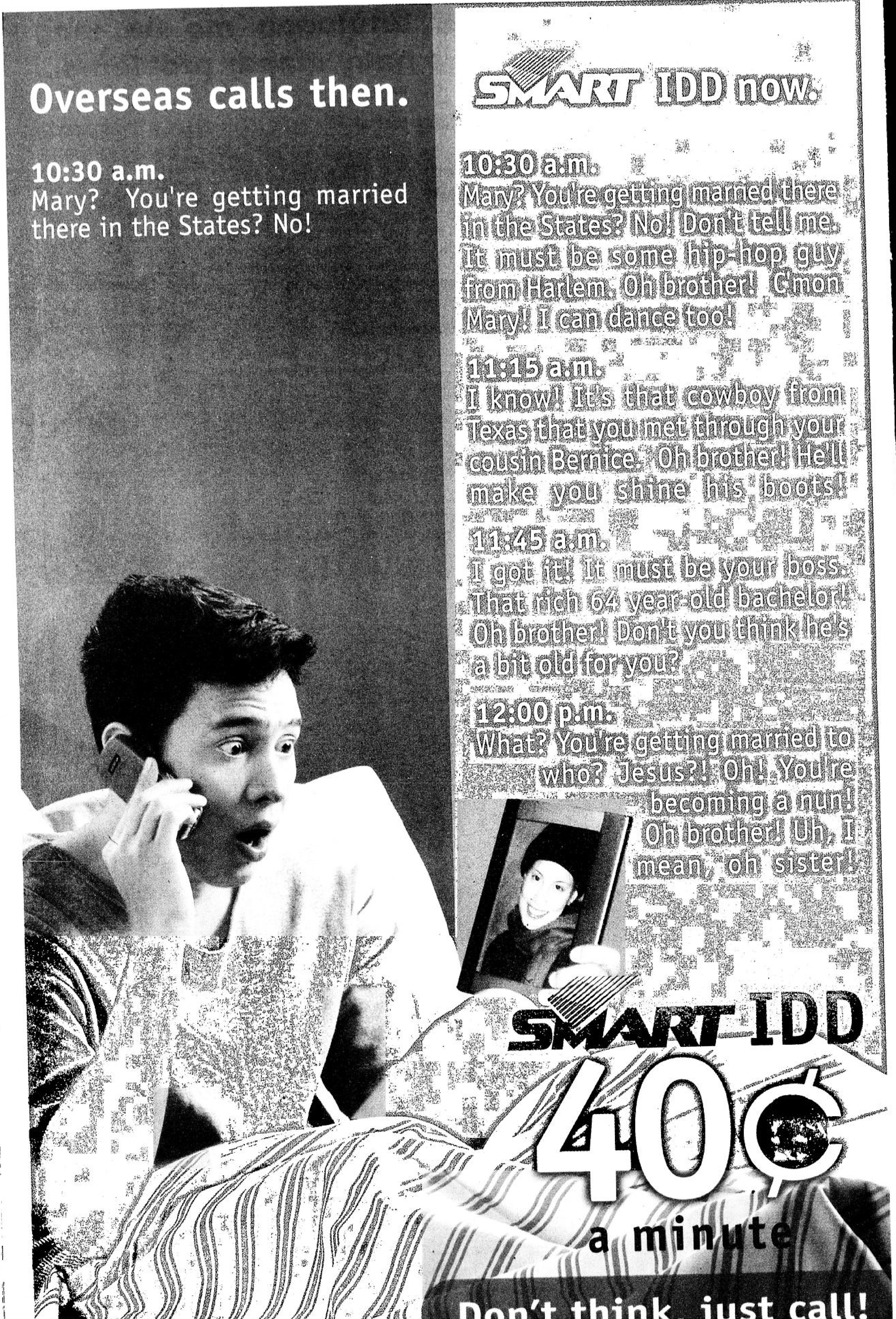

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I know! It's that cowboy from Texas that you met through your cousin Bernice. Oh brother! He'll make you shine his boots!

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I got it! It must be your boss. That rich 64 year-old bachelor! Oh brother! Don't you think he's a bit old for you?

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CHANNEL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
(Code : CDM)

> *Aggressive individuals who will be responsible for initiating, developing and expanding strategic alliance relationship with partners and who will ssume a leadership role in high level strategic partner development activities*

QUALIFICATIONS :

- Technology pre-sales consultant with a flair for business development
- Good understanding of the Technology market and the players in that market
- Ability to understand the partner Training and Pre-sales needs/requirements
- Ability to work closely with CAMs
- Ability to design and roll-out demand generation programs

E-BUSINESS SALES CONSULTANTS (Code: ESC)

> *Highly innovative professionals responsible for the technical relationship with the customer and for ensuring that Oracle wins product evaluations in Applications.*

QUALIFICATIONS:

- BS or MS in Accounting, Business, Engineering, or Computer Science
- 5+ years experience within the software industry
- A minimum of 3 years experience working in a presales capacity supporting packaged software solutions or experience with Oracle's database and tools
- Experience in systems analysis and/ or client needs analysis
- Excellent written, verbal, and interpersonal communication skills
- Proven analytical and problem solving skills
- Good project planning and time management skills
- Ability to build and support applications and/ or core products demo systems
- Functional expertise in any of the following areas: Financials, Manufacturing, Projects, CRM, or HRMS/ Payroll
- Knowledge of business systems applications
- Experience with SAP, PeopleSoft, Siebel, BAAN, or JD Edwards helpful
- Sales experience a definite plus

PROJECT MANAGER (Code :PM)

> *Highly matured professional who will manage accounts and projects to ensure on-time, on-budget delivery of services while meeting customer satisfaction and quality objectives*

QUALIFICATIONS :

- Leadership /Project Management skills
- Excellent communication skills
- 10 years of solid experience in Consulting, Systems Development, and/or Applications Implementation
- Banking, manufacturing, communications, or other industry experience
- Preferably with PM Certification

We challenge you to be part of a visionary, highly ambitious worldwide organization committed to providing our clients with leading edge solutions. We offer a career path, international training, and a remuneration package designed to compete with the best . Interested candidates must send their resume w/ salary history, transcript of records , 1 2x2 photo to :

The HR Director (e-mail address : HR-ID_PH@oracle.com)
ORACLE SYSTEMS (PHILIPPINES), INC.
19/F Pacific Star Bldg. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati city

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The Company We belong to the GE Family of Companies in the Philippines involved in the manufacture of electrical distribution and control products. We are currently looking for an engineering professional to be a part of our business team.

The Opportunity

TECHNICAL MARKETING SUPPORT & APPLICATIONS ENGINEER

He will provide marketing and sales support to the Philippines distribution network and OEM partners including new products applications engineering. He will also provide proactive technical support requiring product presentations to electrical consultants/ contractors and coordinate project implementation. He will develop strong relationships with end customers, electrical consultants and contractors, identify and develop new markets to support the long term business growth. He will provide industry and market competitive development, marketing, sales and technical support.

The Person Must have a degree in Electrical Engineering or Electronics Communications Engineering and with extensive knowledge in High and Low Voltage electrical distribution equipment such as switchgears, substation transformers, busways etc. You must have at least 3 to 4 years experience in related field or handling electrical power distribution for a commercial or industrial project. Excellent oral and written English communication skills. Team player with excellent interpersonal, leadership and communication skills.

The Rewards We offer ample opportunities for people to grow with the company. A competitive remuneration package will be provided to the successful candidate.

To Apply Submit personally, by mail, fax or e-mail, your comprehensive resumé, with your latest 2"x2" picture and expected salary/benefits package, no later than February 2, 2001 to:

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2291Don Chino Roces Avenue Ext.
1231 Makati City
Fax No. (632) 812-0965
E-mail: Antonio.Panganiban@geasn.ge.com

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SALES MANAGER (PDI-SM)

- Not over 35 years old; MBA degree or units a definite plus
- At least 5 years proven track record in sales; preferably gained from distribution of office-related products, systems, equipment or acquired from IT industry
- Knowledge in sales planning activities is required; priority will be given to those with brand management exposure
- Excellent team-building skills and can effectively handle challenges

SALES REPRESENTATIVES (PDI-SR)

- College graduates, not over 28 years old
- At least one year field sales experience
- Good communication skills; able to provide prompt and accurate reports
- Hardworking, assertive individuals who can stand challenges

TELEMARKETING SUPERVISOR (PDI-TS)

- College graduate, not over 28 years old
- At least 2 years experience in call center operations and telemarketing in a supervisorial capacity
- Service-oriented, with knowledge in prospecting and indirect selling through telephone
- Mature, responsible and can work effectively in a fast-paced environment

Qualified applicants are requested to mail their resumes and transcript of records to

(POSITION CODE)
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1331 Angono St., J.P. Rizal Makati City
or e-mail us at ubxhrd@i-next.net

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Candidates must be female, single, between 21 to 25 years old with pleasing personality; Holds a Bachelors Degree in any business related course; Very good oral and written communication skills; Computer literate; Experience in office management is an advantage.

Applicants may apply in person or submit resume' with photo to:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
WS Computer Publishing Corporation
305 SEDCCO I Bldg., 120 Rada cor. Legaspi Sts. Legaspi Village, Makati City
E-mail: jenny@wsgroup.com.ph

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Her primary task is to improve the banquet sales services and increase the banquet sales. She would also plan and take charge of the Club events.

BANQUET MAITRE D

He will take care that the Club caterers deliver a high quality of banquet services. At the same time, he will ensure that the banquet facilities and equipment are in top condition all the time.

BAR SUPERVISOR

He or she will be responsible for the proper operation and high quality of service at the Bar Lounge making sure that every customer returns with a pleasant experience.

SPORTS MANAGER

He will plan, organize and take charge of the tournaments, camps, and special sporting events in the Club, facilitate the participation of the Club in the inter-club, national and international events and establish rapport with the commercial supporters. At the same time, he will take proper administration of the Sports Department.

SPORTS SUPERVISOR

He or she will ensure that the Club and sports rules are implemented, that the sports facilities are immaculately clean and well maintained and that the members receive a pleasantly memorable service from the sports staff.

SPORTS TRAINERS

We need sports specialists who are willing to provide individual or group training for a fee. Call us immediately.

CLUB COMMUNICATION OFFICER

She will look into the activity plans of the Club and disseminate the relevant information at the right time. She will be responsible for the production of high quality newsletters, marketing collaterals, point of sales and advertising materials.

MEMBERSHIP AFFAIRS MANAGER

She will be in charge of the Front Desk and member records staff. Her department is tasked to satisfy member queries and complaints and establish a personalized rapport with the members, their families and guests.

If you possess the experience and qualifications to deliver our expectations, please send your resumé with a picture to the **Personnel Manager, Celebrity Club, Capitol Hills, Dr. Diliman, Quezon City. SOONEST!**

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Level 3, Festival Supermall
Filinvest Corporate City
Alabang, Muntinlupa

The Little Gym® is a franchised children's fitness and development center where motor development, recreational gymnastics, sports skills development, and martial arts classes are provided in a safe non-competitive environment. The curriculum-based physical, social and intellectual development programs are designed by child development experts in the United States.

We need more great teachers to cover our growing enrollment in all three locations and the opening of our fourth branch in Quezon City. The most qualified candidates will be required to complete successfully an exclusive training program. Instructors who complete training and pass assessment would have the privilege of being among the highest paid teachers in the country. All our full-time staff have health insurance benefits.

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We are looking for college degree holders between 21 and 35 years old who speak English fluently and have excellent communication skills, have high energy levels, and are physically fit. They must have a professional work ethic; be habitually punctual, friendly, great with kids; and enjoy teaching and being with kids. Those with backgrounds or experience in early childhood education, child development, special education, gymnastics or martial arts are given priority. Those who are punctuality-challenged and unenthusiastic need not apply.

If you're the one we're looking for, please send your application letter, resume & passport-sized photo to any of our branches before 16 February 2001.

Only the most qualified will be called in for interviews. Applications in person will not be entertained at this time.

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○ With at least three (3) years supervisory experience in general and insurance accounting
○ Possesses excellent communication and interpersonal skills
○ Computer literate

UNIT SUPERVISOR - MARINE UNDERWRITING

○ Male/Female, not over 28 years old
○ Graduate of any four (4) years business related course
○ At least with two (2) years supervisory experience in Marine Underwriting
○ Proficient in Oral and Written English Communication
○ Computer Literate

CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICER

○ Must be customer-focused
○ Graduate of AB Communication or BS Industrial Engineering
○ Preferably with one (1) year experience in related capacity
○ Must have excellent communication skills
○ Computer literate
○ Male, not over 30 years old
○ With pleasing personality

You may send your application letter, comprehensive resumé with recent 2" x 2" picture and transcript of records to:

THE PERSONNEL OFFICER
Human Resources Department
Malayan Insurance Company, Inc.
5th Floor, Yuchengco Building
484 Quintin Paredes St., Binondo, Manila
E-mail address: malayan@malayan.com
Website: http://www.malayan.com

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Position requires a BS Degree in Business Management or Marketing with a minimum of 4-6 years experience in a management position in the retail industry preferably a convenience store. Can speak Mandarin fluently and has the ability to translate written Mandarin to English and vice-versa. He/she is responsible for restructuring, planning and development of the entire organization.

ASSISTANT MANAGER FOR RETAIL ACCOUNTING

Position requires an Accounting graduate who is familiar with Retail Accounting Information System with at least 3 to 5 years work experience in the convenience store industry. Computer literate, excellent team player with good human relations and communication skills. Fluency in Mandarin (oral and written) is necessary.

RECRUITMENT ASSISTANT

Qualified applicants must be a Psychology or Behavioral Science graduate with good scholastic record. He must be familiar with test administration and willing to do field work. He should know how to conduct interview and has excellent interpersonal and communication skills. Male applicant, from 22 to 26 years old, is preferred.

Qualified applicants are requested to mail or e-mail their resumé with 2x2 ID picture and transcript of records to:

PHILIPPINE SEVEN CORPORATION
Human Resources Development Department
7th Floor, Columbia Tower, EDSA, (Near Corner) Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City
E-mail us at: hrdrect@info.com.ph

MANAGERIAL

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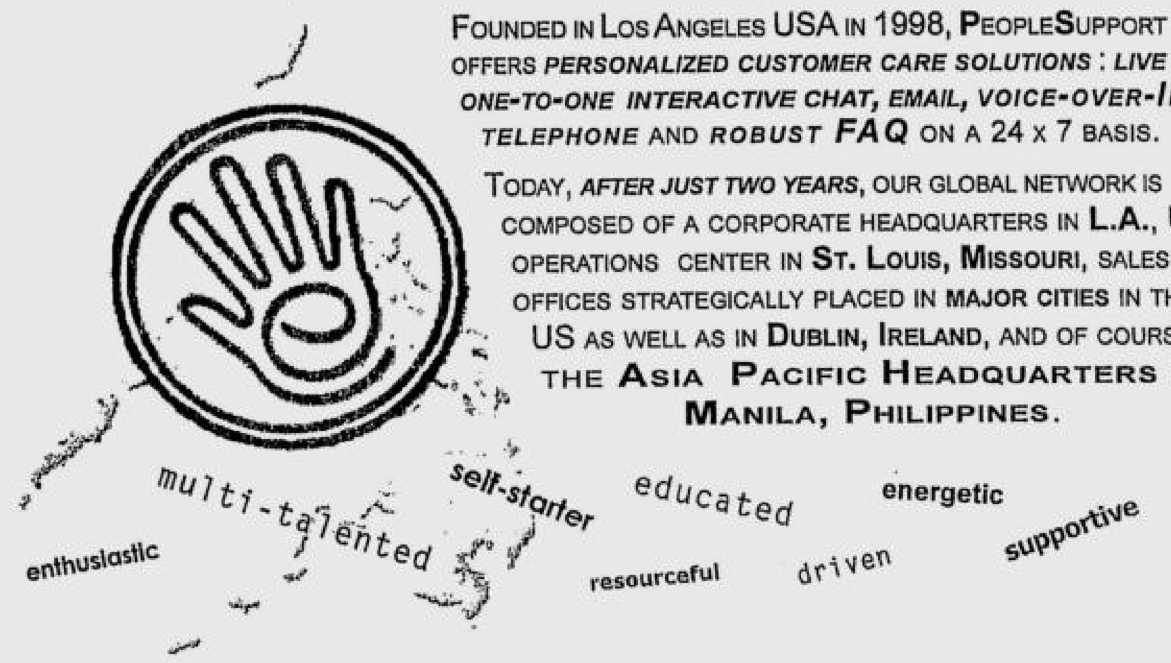

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- CPA, with higher studies in management
- Three years experience in the development of policies and procedures and compliance audit
- Understands financial analysis
- Female, 25-30 years old

TRANSPORT & WAREHOUSE MANAGER (PDI-TWM)

- Graduate of Industrial Engineering or any business course
- At least five years experience in the same capacity
- Must have excellent organizational skills
- Male, not over 35 years old

ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR (PDI-AS)

- CPA, with at least 2 years supervisory experience
- With expertise in accounting and knowledge in tax compliance reports
- Ability to excel in a fast-paced environment
- Not over 30 years old

CREDIT & COLLECTION SUPERVISOR (PDI-CCS)

- Graduate of Commerce or any business course
- Can effectively monitor collection activities and analyze payment patterns to anticipate delinquencies
- Adept in credit granting and debt arrangement
- Able to maintain cooperative relations with clients
- Preferably male, not over 30 years old

COLLECTORS (PDI-COL)

- College graduates, not over 28 years old
- With at least one year experience in field collection
- Preferably with basic knowledge in accounting

Qualified applicants are requested to mail their resumes and transcript of records to

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Alabang, Muntinlupa City
E-mail Address: askwr@woodrose.curricula.net

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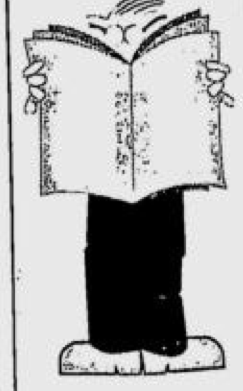

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Email address: Phfc2001@yahoo.com

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- Must have at least 1-2 years supervisory experience in a multi operational company.
- Must be a CPA, graduate from a reputable University with good scholastic record. Background in general accounting and audit is a definite advantage.
- Must possess high level of integrity and motivation.
- Female, not more than 30 years old.

BRANCH HEADS

- With at least 1 year work experience in a retail fashion company.
- Graduate of Marketing or Retail Management course from a reputable University with good scholastic record. Background in accounting is a definite advantage.
- With pleasing personality, must be 5'3" in height and can deal with all levels in the organization.
- Excellent written and communication skills, computer literate.
- Female, not more than 30 years old.

STORE OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR

- Preferably Business Administration graduate with strong leadership skills.
- Must have 2-3 years supervisory experience in a retail fashion company.
- Female, with pleasing personality and must be willing to do field work, Computer literate. Background in accounting is a definite advantage.
- Flexible, hard-working. With good fashion sense.

ACCOUNTING STAFF

- Graduate of Accountancy or Banking and Finance with 1 year experience in the same capacity.
- Must be motivated and highly innovative, can perform with minimum supervision.
- Female, not more than 25 years old.

FASHION CONSULTANTS

- Female, 5'2" in height with pleasing personality.
- With work experience as promo/Fashion Consultant in any Retail company.
- Can work under-pressure, honest and self-motivated. College level.

Accounting graduates are welcome to apply for any position.

Applicants are requested to come personally with comprehensive resumé, 2x2 picture and transcript of records, M-W-F, 1-5 PM.

2702-C East Tektite Tower Phil Stock Exchange Centre
Ortigas Center Pasig City 1605
Fax: (632) 635-54-69 E-mail: lbsc@skylnet.net

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We are looking for **Full-Timers**, Preferably with 2 years Selling Experience.

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CORPORATE ACCOUNT MANAGERS
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- Female, 21 to 25 years old with pleasing personality
- Graduate of any 4-year course
- Proficient in oral and written communication skills
- Fresh Graduates are welcome to apply

Interested applicants may apply in person, bring your resumé and 2x2 picture at:

Rm. 209 Doña Amparo Building
España corner G. M. Tolentino Streets
Sampaloc, Manila
Email: cruisin@eastern.com.ph

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3. **One (1) Marketing Director.**
4. **IT Professionals with possible training in Japan.**
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** Requirements for positions no. 4 and 5 are as follows:

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Come and see us Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the 10th Floor, Room 105 at Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City. Bring along your bio-data, recent photo, and other pertinent documents. Look for Christine Abaigar or Alex Jardinero.

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We are also accepting applications for Brokers/Sales Agents in our operations in the Middle East, Taiwan, Singapore, Guam, Hawaii, Saipan, Italy, and Spain. If you have been a resident in those places for no less than five years, has an established networking, ideally involved in the business of selling house & lot packages, possesses a proven track record of delivering sales, and trustworthy, you are who we are looking for.

Direct buyers are also welcome. We offer the lowest terms at 16% for as long as 15 years. We have a "No Downpayment" scheme and our lowest package requires a monthly amortization of only P3,589.93.00.

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- B.S. ARCHITECTURE GRADUATE/UNDERGRADUATE
- MALE OR FEMALE
- 30 YEARS OLD OR BELOW

Bring your bio-data, recent photo, and sample of your works. Please report to Architect Nap Ramos from Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City

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MARKETING REPRESENTATIVES

who are preferably

- ➢ male or female, 25 to 30 years old
- ➢ 4-year college degree graduates
- ➢ 2 to 3 years of business-to-business marketing or sales experience in food, and general merchandise products / raw materials
- ➢ business-oriented, has strong entrepreneurial desire, and ability to spot business opportunities
- ➢ good English speaking and writing abilities
- ➢ willing to travel internationally and domestic
- ➢ Chinese speaking abilities would be an advantage

Fresh college graduates are also welcome to apply!

Please send your resumé with photo to:

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT
MCC P.O. 2847
Makati 1299

LINGKURAN SA IKAUUNLAD NA GANAP NG PAMILYA (LINGaP) FOUNDATION, INC., a non-government/civil society organization with a community-based program in Malabon and Navotas, has an immediate need of the following personnel:

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

- a graduate of business administration or any related course
- must be willing and mature enough to work in a community-based organization
- must have at least 2 years supervisory experience in handling financial management, personnel and office administration.
- previous work experience with a NGO/CSO has preference

LICENSED SOCIAL WORKER (RSW)

- not below 25 years old
- must have supervised a community-based program implementation
- must have experience in handling case management and family development
- with initiative, willingness and mature enough to work with families in the community

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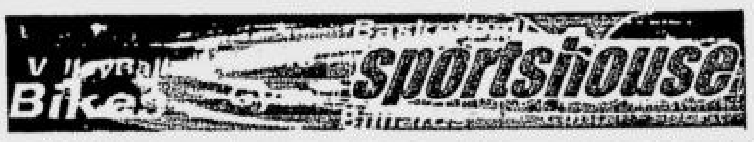

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  - ➢ not more than 35 years old
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- Experience not required

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E-mail: manila@illies.de

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- Female, 20-28 years old, single, Commerce graduates-any major course
- Know how to use Lotus, Excel and Word
- With or without experience in accounting related work

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- Ability to speak Chinese will be an advantage

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- Ability to speak Chinese will be an advantage

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- Hardworking, smart, aggressive, results-oriented, trustworthy
- Ability to speak Chinese will be an advantage

IV. Executive Assistant for Sales and Finance

- Male/Female, 21-30 years old, with pleasing personality
- B.S. Degree in Accounting, Business, Management, Engineering
- Knowledge in accounting, statistics, with analytical skill
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Knowledge in Excel, Words, Access
- Chinese speaking and preferably with supervisory skills

Applicants to submit resumé, TOR, certifications of employment, 2 colored photos (2x2) to:

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Upson Holdings Incorporated
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- Female, with pleasing personality
- 20 to 26 years old
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#19 Annapolis Street, Greenhills
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*** CLERK/SECRETARY/TEL. OPTR./ RECEPTIONIST**
➢ Graduate or at least 2nd year college level of any course; experienced in clerical/secretarial course; proficient in MS Word, MS Excel and average typing speed

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SUNDAY
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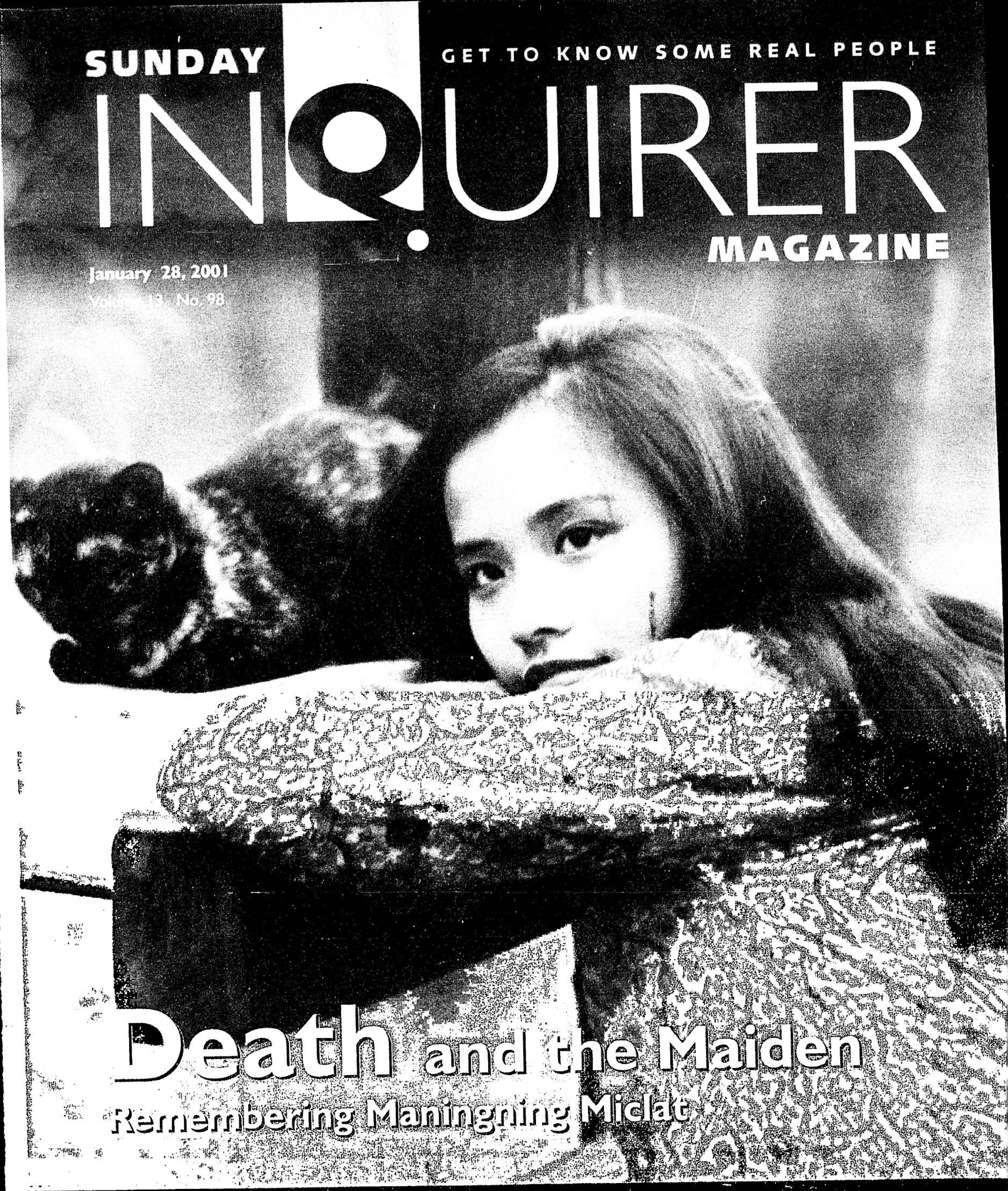
MAGAZINE

January 28, 2001
Volume 13 No. 98



Death and the Maiden

Remembering Maningning Miclat

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Jumping from reel to real life, Dodos De La Cruz is making a difference in the lives of street children

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Maningning Miclat lived every minute of her life to the full, even up to her suicide. Now we remember and celebrate her extraordinary life and legacy.

Special Series
A Case of Opposing and Conflicting Personalities *by Aida Sevilla Mendoza* 13
Exactly who and what determines when one is psychologically unfit to stay married?

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From "Kaluluwa"

III
Sometimes I almost believe you love me.

You gift me with recognition
of certain joys:

flavors of earth upon my tongue—
sweet raisin rising in a bite of bread,
vague dreaminess of cheese, lemongrass
lisping its yellow syllable
into a broth of coco milk and shrimp,

my edges warm and bristling
upon touching the world's bright shapes,
the skin of another body, his tongue
against my nape—

you believe you can speak to another soul
this way, the candlepower of your flame
burns a moment or two braver,
and it is obvious who between us is glad. Or are you—

No sooner do you gleam than you darken,
silver cup tarnished by the humid air,
and once more it is me you end up blaming,

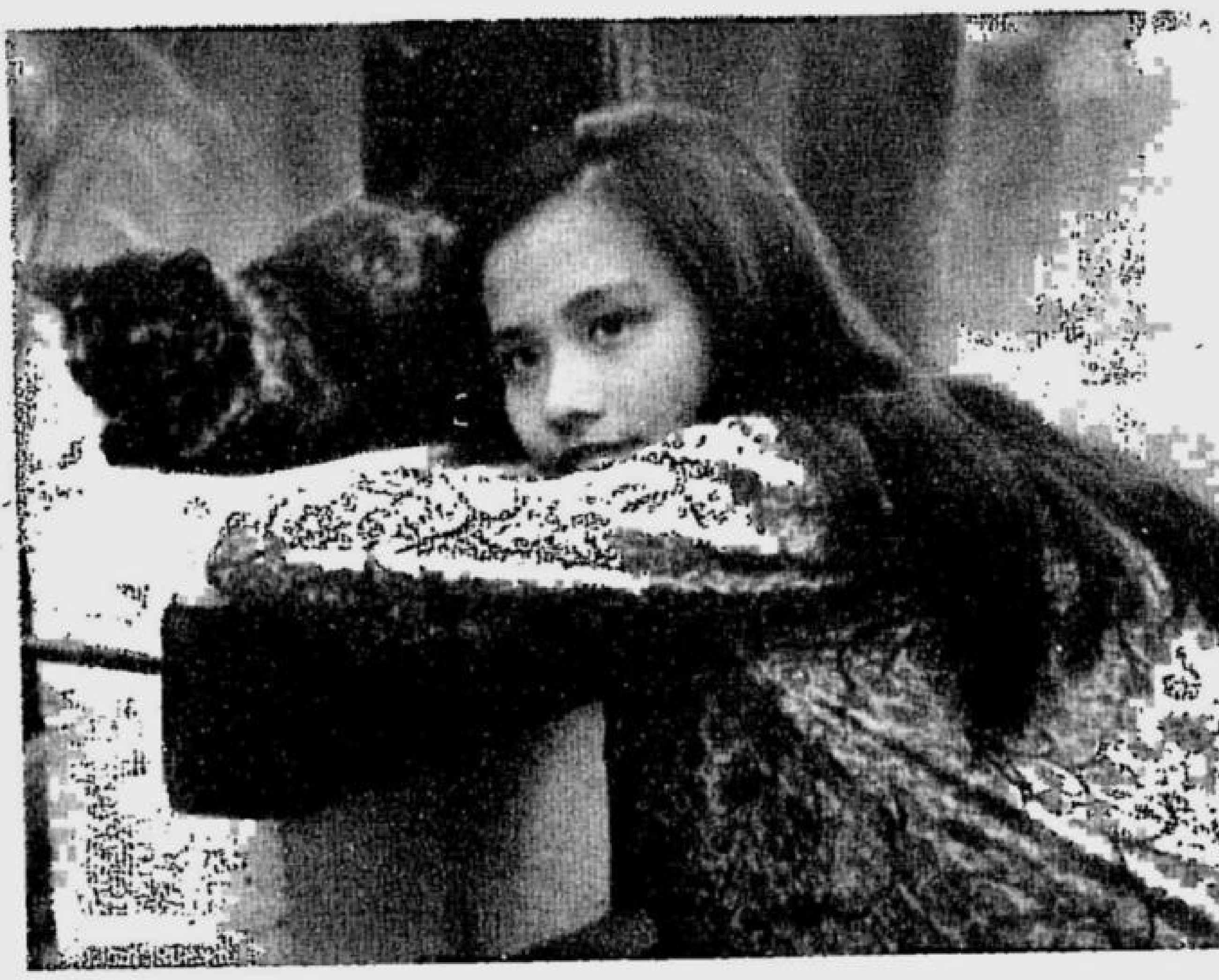
for I must not want what I cannot have
even if, in truth, your wants gape wide
like the sky's blunt rims—

quenchless, beyond fulfilling.

XXXIX
What happens to me after
is not anything I can predict:
as we are sometimes told,
from an ending just might gesture
a beginning. I would like to believe, as did
my people whose breath was soil—
shall remain useful
even if only as an aspect of soil.
Out of my feet sweet yams perhaps, my fingers
curled forth into the graceful backs of snails,
from my stomach something flesh-bound or fat
like pulpy shoot or vine with off-white blooms
dangling from its sides, my tongue,
that difficult slab of weathered wood,
just might whisper its new-found language
in fragrant syllables of herb and mushroom
and amber sap. Consider it:
anything is possible
when you are one with earth—
giving ground in which dreams stab downward,
take root like love, and come to fruit.

LVI
Entrust me, if you must, to the sunrise,
that spill of fluent light, or to the sea, whose robe
of foam unravels, who raises from still depths
the dead and diminished with both small hands,
laying them down upon the world's dark edge,
my earthen feet. And it is here that I whisper
this final prayer: I commend you to the one
who caused you, bright breath that does not end,
fire from which you leapt, sweet flicker,
and burned inside my skin's dull lamp,
which now feels cold, essentially broken.
I who am without power, whose voice
is the voice of naked need, hang my head
and give you up for lost. As morning's
cup cracks open, watch me violate my selfish nature,
recite for you my only act of charity: go now,
lift and billow soft into the day. Lightening,
sipping the sky's warm colors, my dearest:
think not, think never, of me.

J. Neil Carmelo Garcia


Cover Story, page 8

The Cover Image Not even death can dim the light that shone on young artist Maningning Miclat's life and works.
Cover photograph courtesy of the Miclat family

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For A Cause

by Malaya J. Mendoza

photos by Ricky Sadiwa

After directing documentaries and stage plays, Dodos De la Cruz finds himself rewriting the script for several young lives as a volunteer in a shelter for street children.

A New Role for "Direk"

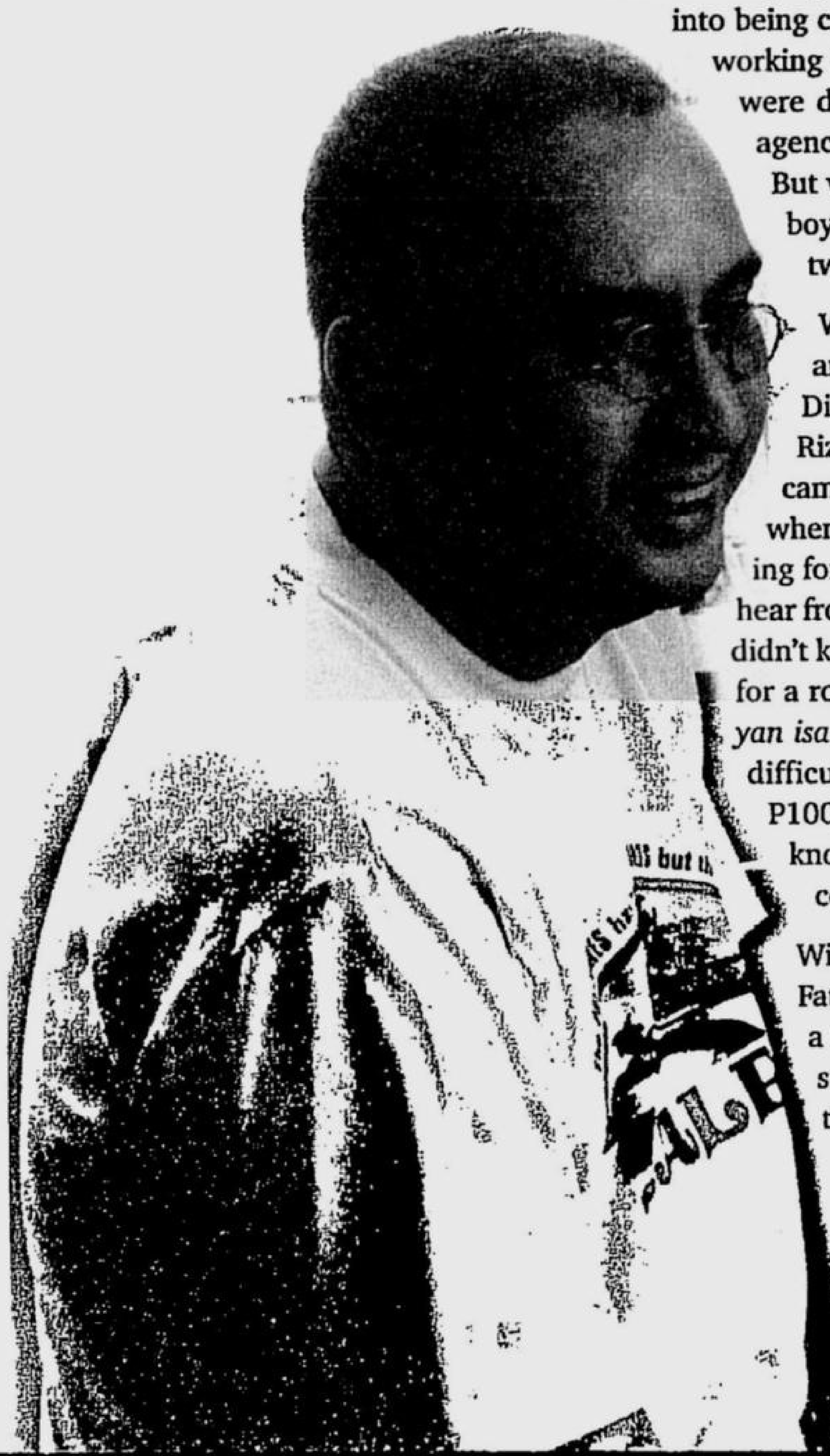
HE USED TO BE A DIRECTOR FOR DOCUMENTARY STORIES, AUDIO-VISUAL PRODUCTIONS AND STAGE PLAYS, BUT THESE DAYS DODOS DE LA CRUZ IS MORE INVOLVED IN A VERSION OF *CINEMA VERITE*. A VOLUNTEER IN A CENTER FOR STREET CHILDREN, HE FINDS HIMSELF DIRECTING LOST SOULS INTO WHAT HE HOPES WOULD BECOME A BETTER LIFE FOR THEM.

> *He strives to make the center a real home for the children. "I don't want an institution. I want a home," he says*

It all started in 1990 after De la Cruz did a play and found himself with an excess of production materials. An ad calling for volunteers for a children's center prompted him to bring the materials along and give the kids art lessons for a week. The moment changed his life.

"When I saw the children, I felt like we were falling down a cliff and the kids were hanging on to me," he recounts in Pilipino. "I have this fear that if I let go, they'd go headlong into the ravine never to be seen again. So I hang on."

As a street educator, *Direk* Dodos roams the streets of Ermita and Luneta. "I'd sit in a corner with some papers and start drawing," he says. "After a few minutes, the children would come to eye what I'm doing. So I'd give them papers and tell them, 'here, why don't you try it yourself.' That's how we'd get acquainted." Soon enough, Direk became everybody's *kuya* (big brother). He later joined a group who believed in the same cause of giving the children some basic skills and a steadying hand. After six years in the streets, he graduated into being called *tatay* (father). But the foundation Direk was working for suddenly closed down. He recalls: "The kids were dispersed and distributed to different government agencies. I went home, thinking my mission was over. But when I woke up the following morning, I found 14 boys sleeping in front of my garage. They didn't last two hours in their new homes."



Direk Dodos is building a special kind of home for street children

While the country was tumultuously celebrating the arrival of Pope John Paul II for World Youth Day, Direk and 14 homeless boys were at the other side of Rizal Park. A visiting Australian priest, a Father O'Brien, came upon the group and was quickly overwhelmed when the kids came rushing to him. They had been praying for a home. It would be a month before Direk would hear from the priest. In the meantime, he was desperate. "I didn't know what to do. I approached my friends, pleading for a roof for the boys. *'Pare, dito muna ito, babalikan ko yan isang araw,'* I told several friends. Those were really difficult times." Then O'Brien sent help—a check for P100,000. "It was amazing," says Direk. "I didn't really know him. But he said in his letter that the money could help me start over again."

With the money, Direk Dodos and a few friends formed Father O'Brien Angels' Home Foundation, Inc. in 1996, a socio-civic, non-stock, non-profit organization for street children. "People look at street children with this hostile and detached feeling, especially when the kids are holding a rag. We either recoil in disgust or in fear like they're very filthy creatures. But these children are dirty only because they've been neglected. Once they've been bathed and fed, they look like angels." Home to about 50 boys and girls, the foundation has two shelters: Angels' Home One in Caloocan City which houses girls and boys from ages 2 to 14, and the Big Boy Angels' Group Home in Manila for boys 15 years and older.

One-Tooth is the youngest of the center's kids

Like a real father, *Direk* Dodos strives to make the center a real home for the children. "I don't want an institution. I want a home," he states. The kids are taught simple chores and responsibilities—like cleaning the house, washing the dishes, cooking, and looking out for each other. "In an institution, you all wake up at the same time," the former director explains. "Here, children are allowed to sleep late if there is no urgent task for them to do the next day. Newcomers especially are given as much time to sleep because we know how sleepless they've been in the streets. We help them adjust. The kids look out for each other, especially the younger ones. Right now the youngest here is One-Tooth."

Named because of his lone front tooth, One-Tooth was found by a street educator living with his two brothers, ages six and eight, under the vegetable stall of his grandfather in Divisoria. His older brother had to be hospitalized because the boy was bleeding. When the boy got well, his grandfather secretly brought him home. After a few weeks, the boy started bleeding again, the blood coming out of his gums and nose. Instead of dengue, it turned out that the boy was in the advanced stage of leukemia. When he died, One-Tooth and his younger brother were immediately sent to live in Caloocan. Though only seven, One-Tooth would often sneak out and hitch rides in jeepneys to go back to Divisoria.

Explains Direk: "He manages to do that because our doors are not locked. As I said, we're not an institution and the children are free to come and go." After a few episodes however, One Tooth eventually settled down in the Home and is now studying, says Direk. With at least 50 kids to take care of, *Direk* Dodos no longer goes out to look for troubled souls. They just show up at his front door, sent

When he sees one of the children go up the stage and he gets to pin ribbons on them, he feels mighty proud, thinking of how he has helped change some lives

there either by the Social Welfare department, the barangay *tanod*, a concerned relative or neighbor, or a fellow street educator.

"The first thing we do is interview them about their families—where they live, who they are, and so on. We have volunteers and social workers who try to locate their relatives because our main objective is to reconcile them with their families. But sometimes that's like dreaming of Utopia," says Direk. He recalls how four children, ages 2 ½ to 4 were referred to them after their parents swapped them for shabu. "Until now the parents have yet to show up," he says.

While the center works at both healing the child and counseling the parents, Direk admits that the process can be very frustrating as often, the parents are jobless, drunkards or drug users. "It's very difficult to explain to children why their father would throw them out their second floor window while their mothers weep in one corner, feeling totally helpless. The children would come home from Don Bosco school and ask me about the fourth commandment: honor thy father and thy mother. But, they complain, *'yung tatay ko binubugbog ako, sasaksakin pa nga ako, eh.* (But my father would maul me and even tried to stab me), so how can I love them?' I quote the book of Ephesians to them, about turning the other cheek. Now I sometimes hear them pray, 'please God, make my parents realize how bad they're treating me.'" It's a very long and painful task to reeducate the children with values, but the results have been gratifying, Direk reveals. Most of the kids now know the difference between right and wrong and the wandering and stowing away have completely stopped, he says.

Street smart: Direk and his true-to-life cast

Equally challenging is sending the boys to school. Money is tight and few are willing to sponsor the children. Right now, Direk manages to send 16 boys to school. To augment their needs, he founded Teatro Palaboy. "We ran out of funds so I thought we could do a play," he recalls. "I thought it would be that easy. After all, I'm a director and I thought I could make actors of them. They couldn't understand my instructions so I gave them a script. The next day, the script still looked new and untouched. It turns out they didn't even know how to read."

But since its inception five years ago, Teatro has become an alternative theatre where the children as performers acquire new skills and confidence to improve themselves. A vehicle that encourages the kids to come out of their shell, Teatro Palaboy has become a therapeutic community for them. "The theater helps them open up. We once staged 'Batang Pro,' a story about child prostitution. I didn't know that some of the children had similar experiences. We've been together for some time but they have not confided this to me. But when we started rehearsing the play, they started talking about their experiences, and that started the healing process."

Given the freedom to fix the stage, improvise the props, manage the lighting system and make the costumes, the children found the theater a good training ground to learn various skills such as stage management, scriptwriting, production design and even directing. Because of lack of funds, the children have also become very resourceful and creative at making ends meet. "We have no make-up so we use paint. No mask? We'll make them ourselves," *Direk* Dodos recounts. "Their best achievement so far is being able to stand on their own and talk to people. Through the theater, they got their confidence back" he adds.

To date, Teatro Palaboy has staged two major plays: "At Iba Pang Layak," staged at the MET and "Batang Pro." When invited, Teatro also stages 10- to15-minute short plays which they perform on the streets, inside his garage and sometimes in parties. "Sometimes we get paid but most of the time, we do it for advocacy. We're working and hoping to become a resident theatre group for an institution," says Direk.

Though sponsorhips and donations come in trickles, Direk and the kids always manage to survive. Once, when the Home was remiss in paying its electricity bill and faced the prospect of disconnection, Direk felt helpless. "It was about 11 p.m. at the time, and I was praying: 'Lord, this is the last day of the disconnection notice and you know our problem. I used up the P4,500 for our food supply and there's nothing left to spare. *Bahala na kayo.*'" It was a simple prayer that came from his heart. "I prepared to go to bed," he recounts. "I was charging my cell phone when it suddenly beeped. This was about 11:27 and I don't know who the caller was, but his message went, 'I deposited P4,000 in your bank account this morning. I read your article and I was touched by the Holy Spirit so I'm giving you the money now.' *Sabi ko* 'Lord *ha, pa*-text- text *na lang kayo*,'" he says.

Faith always finds its ways, but like any other man, Direk is only human and feels the heavy burden of being father to 50 kids and program director of the Home. "It's tough," he admits. "I often have no money and that seems to be everybody's problem. But when the children hear about it, they tell me, '*wala rin akong pera, wala nga akong nanay, wala nga akong bahay eh; di ko pa alam kung ano ang apelyido ko, eh di wala din akong pangalan.* (I have no money too, and I have no mother, no home, not even a name).' Most of the time, I have one leg out the door, longing to flee. But my other leg is inside the Home and there are 50 kids hanging on to it. So I can't just run."

But there are rewards, he acknowledges. When he sees one of the children go up the stage and he gets to pin ribbons on them, or when he listens to a valedictory speech, he feels mighty proud, thinking of how he has helped change some lives. Still, Direk dreams of seeing the Home running on its own, and the boys becoming self-reliant and someday involved in a business like silk-screening or printing.

As a man used to comfort and luxury as well as the glamor of show business, Direk often raises eyebrows. After all, he is also a family man with two children of his own. Why take on the extra headache of being father to 50 more kids? "I guess I identify with the kids," he confides. "I was three months old when my parents separated. I met my dad when I was 10 and my mother when I was 18. I never really knew them because they died early. My only advantage over the other children was having grandparents who took care of me and sent me to school."

Having known the lives of street children these past 10 years, Direk has this advice: "The next time you're stuck in traffic and an urchin knocks on your window and you have no change, roll down the window. Tell the child you have no spare change at the moment, so next time *na lang*. At that instance when you talked to him, at the very least, you acknowledged him as a fellow human being, *tinao mo siya.*"

Bro. Dodos dela Cruz can be reached at Fr. O'Brien Angels' Home Foundation, Inc., Children's Shelter at 166 Baltazar St., 8th West Ave., Grace Park, Caloocan City (tel. 364-4004) and Big Boy Angels' Home at 2373 Espiritu St., Singalong, Manila (tel. 0919-3271828).

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Para kay Tino Dulay

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sa pakikibangayan sa mga pormula;
bagama't natutunan nating di magpatali dito

At lalo tayong nabusog
nang ilathala ng isang lingguhang magasin
ang ating mga tula;
mga baliw tayong sumirko dahil sa wakas
ay nadama din nating tayo'y makata.

Ngayon, kapwa pa rin tayo nagsusulat.
Ngunit sa humpak mong mukha,
alam kong tulad ko,
hindi ka na rin nabubusog
sa tulang pinagpiyestahan ng madla.

Genaro R. Gojo Cruz

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3	600	1,200	2,400
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5	700	1,400	2,800
6 to 20	750	1,500	3,000
DAILY DREAD DISEASE BENEFIT			
1	P1,000	P2,000	P4,000
2	1,100	2,200	4,400
3	1,200	2,400	4,800
4	1,300	2,600	5,200
5	1,400	2,800	5,600
6 to 20	1,500	3,000	6,000
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1	P500	P1,000	P2,000
2	550	1,100	2,200
3	600	1,200	2,400
4	650	1,300	2,600
5	700	1,400	2,800
6 to 20	750	1,500	3,000
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4	13,000	26,000	52,000
5	14,000	28,000	56,000
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1	P10,000	P20,000	P40,000
2	11,000	22,000	44,000
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35-39	143.95	287.95	574.95
40-44	179.95	358.95	717.95
45-49	223.95	447.95	894.95
50	278.95	557.95	1,115.95
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20-29	169.95	339.95	679.95
30-34	232.95	464.95	928.95
35-39	287.95	574.95	1,149.95
40-44	358.95	717.95	1,435.95
45-49	447.95	894.95	1,789.95
50	557.95	1,115.95	2,231.95
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20-29	239.95	478.95	957.95
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Cover Story
by Ruel S. De Vera

With her suicide, artist-poet Maningning Miclat left behind a life devoted to the purest quest for art

One Bright, Shining Life

IMAGINE THE FALL. DO YOU FEEL FEAR OR FREEDOM? WHAT WAS 28-YEAR-OLD MANINGNING MICLAT THINKING AS SHE LET GO OF THE BUILDING'S RAILING AND PLUMMETED TO THE EARTH, THE WIND WHISTLING THROUGH HER HAIR? THE CONCEPT OF TAKING ONE'S OWN LIFE IS DIFFICULT ENOUGH TO COMPREHEND, BUT THAT MANINGNING, WHO SEEMINGLY HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN ANYTHING SHE WENT INTO AND WAS PART OF U.P. PROFESSOR MARIO MICLAT'S HAPPY FAMILY, IS EVEN MORE PUZZLING. WHAT MAKES A BEAUTIFUL, TALENTED PERSON, PRESUMABLY AT THE PEAK OF HER LIFE, DECIDE TO KILL HERSELF?

Perhaps we'll never know, but certain facts are clear. Early in the morning of September 29, 2000, Maningning, a published author, prize-winning artist and an art teacher at Far Eastern University, was on the seventh floor of FEU's Institute of Architecture and Fine Arts. She walked to the building's ledge, took off her shoes and neatly put them to one side. She sat down on the ledge. Then, she stepped up, grabbed the railing and suspended herself, the earth to her back. She made the Sign of the Cross. Then she let go.

> *"Maningning was too fragile for this world. This world is too violent, this world is too cruel"*

MARIO Miclat and Alma Cruz were barely in their twenties when they met at UP Diliman during the First Quarter Storm. Says Alma, "We were united by a common dream of seeing a society that's free, where people can have a better life." Both activists, the two were soon married in a Cubao apartment on May 5, 1971. The couple left for Beijing in August of that year to serve as foreign experts at Radio Peking.

Joan Bandoc

Missing Maningning: Mario, Alma and Banaue Miclat at home

It was in Beijing that their first child was born, on April 15, 1972. She almost didn't make it. "I almost had a miscarriage when she was six months," Alma recalls. Mario originally wanted to name her "Maningning na Pulang Tala," representing their progressive beliefs, but Alma thought it too long. The baby became Maningning Cruz Miclat, a bright name for what would turn out to be a bright child. She would be fondly dubbed "Ning," which translates into "tranquility" in Chinese.

"She learned the theory of talking before walking," Mario laughs, "She was very sharp." Well behaved even then, Ning learned Mandarin as her first language. Exposed to books in their home, Ning began reading even before she turned 1. Alma made it a point, however, to teach her to read and write Pilipino.

Maningning: In Chinese her nickname means "Tanquility"

Thus did the fast-learning Ning become a child of two cultures, as she lived in a household pervaded by Filipino culture, and simultaneously attended Yumin Elementary School. She began drawing at 3, wrote her first poem at 7, and upon entering high school at the prestigious Beijing Normal University's Pilot Middle School, began to paint as well. Her family life changed when her sister Banaue was born in 1979. Growing up in a less isolated environment, Banaue, or "Wei-Wei," would grow up to be markedly more relaxed and outgoing than Ning.

Growing up in Beijing, Ning would be reminded by her classmates' taunts that she was not from there, something that would stay with her. During her adolescent years, Ning became more withdrawn, Mario notes. Alma says Ning always wanted them to like whatever she produced. "She was very sensitive," she adds.

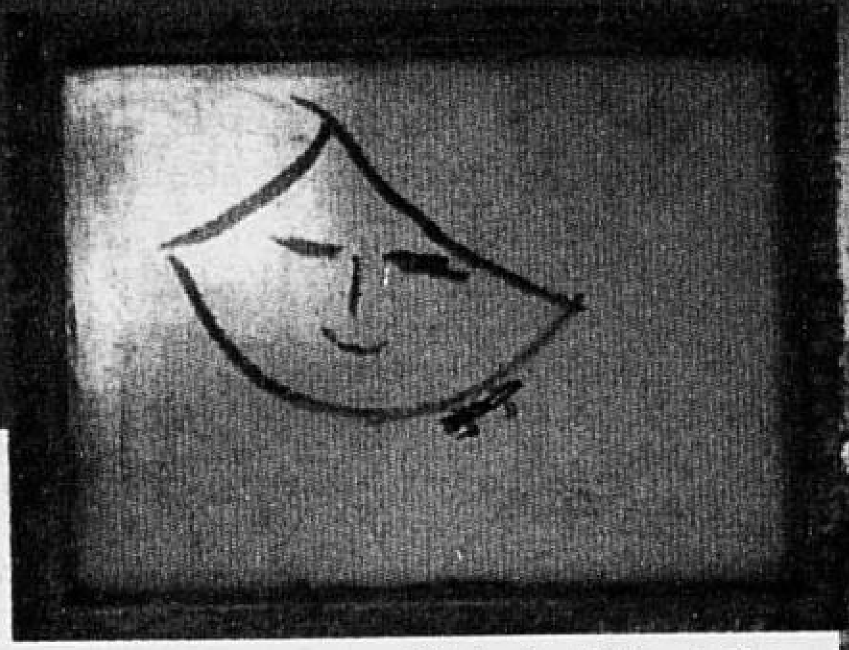
Yet Ning excelled in her studies. She was also proficient in Chinese painting, shining in the freehand brushwork style that girls were not supposed to excel at. But after 15 years in China, in 1986, the Miclats headed home.

THE CHANGE in the political climate they had long been waiting for had finally come. The Marcoses had been overthrown and Mario finally had a passport home.

Ning was admitted to the all-girls St. Theresa's College in Quezon City. Despite having to adjust to a new environment, Ning enjoyed going to STC; gaining friends, becoming an outstanding student and honing her art.

Barely a year after their return to the Philippines, Ning had her first solo exhibit. "Maningning: An Exhibit of Chinese Brush Works" opened in October 1987 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. The CCP exhibit would only be the first of four solo exhibitions, and the first of about 20 total exhibitions for her. Ning also joined Virgilio Almario's LIRA writers group. She could now write and speak Mandarin, English and Filipino and, even in high school, was often invited to read at poetry readings, doing so in multiple languages.

After graduating from STC in 1989, Ning took up BS Math at UP Baguio out of deference to her mother's wishes. But after one year, she decided to follow her dream and transferred to UP Diliman's Fine Arts program. She continued to excel in writing, becoming a fellow of the UP National Writers Workshop in 1990. In 1992, she won the grand prize in the Art Association of the Philippines annual



Shining in childhood: One of Ning's first paintings (above) and Ning as a toddler in China (right)

contest. Her poems were being published as well. She graduated from UP with a degree in Fine Arts in 1994, and in the same year, received a grant from the National Commission on Culture and the Arts to create her landmark work, the mural "Soliloquy," which was installed in the CCP's Little Theater. She sold paintings, wrote for newspapers, designed book covers, taught Mandarin at the Ateneo University, and even had her second book, "Voice from the Underworld," published by Anvil Publishing.

Yet Ning also became increasingly intense in her work. UP associate dean Jose Wendell Capili, a close friend, marveled at the seemingly endless creative energy she displayed. "She sketched images on paper napkins in the middle of conversations." She was also very hard on herself. When an art teacher was not particularly impressed by one of Ning's works, she reacted by destroying the painting.

TO UNDERSTAND how special Maningning Miclat was, one has to understand how precious family life was to the Miclats, who became even more closely knit upon returning to the Philippines. They often went out together on weekends, taking the jeep as a group. Ning became her mother's shopping, gardening and movie-watching companion. Banaue and Ning, now closer in age, became very close.

In 1997, the family moved to their home in the hills of Antipolo, Rizal. The family would spend hours on the veranda, watching rainbows and moonrises in the clean, clear mountain air. Ning's room in the attic has a mattress on the floor instead of a bed, but it opens into a spacious studio where Ning toiled endless hours on her paintings. "She kept to herself and was very quiet when she was working," Mario smiles, "but as soon as she was done, she'd tell everyone about what she just did."

Aside from time with her family, Ning savored simple joys: instant noodles, "Jane Eyre," Umberto Eco, the music of Enya, Martin Nievera, Ric Segreto and later on, Celine Dion and Ricky Martin. She enjoyed a trip to Europe, savoring the new sights and sounds. She loved elegant evening clothes, but was not a fussy dresser. The slender Ning had now grown into a stunningly attractive woman, with striking Filipina looks. "Many writers were infatuated with her," Wendell notes. "A talent scout even wanted her to become a model and another wanted her to join Bb. Pilipinas." Yet for all that, Ning steadfastly did not accept the compliments, appearing to be oblivious to her own beauty, an inward and unyielding humility in an era of vanity. "She did not take her physical looks seriously," Wendell adds, "she was more concerned about her art."

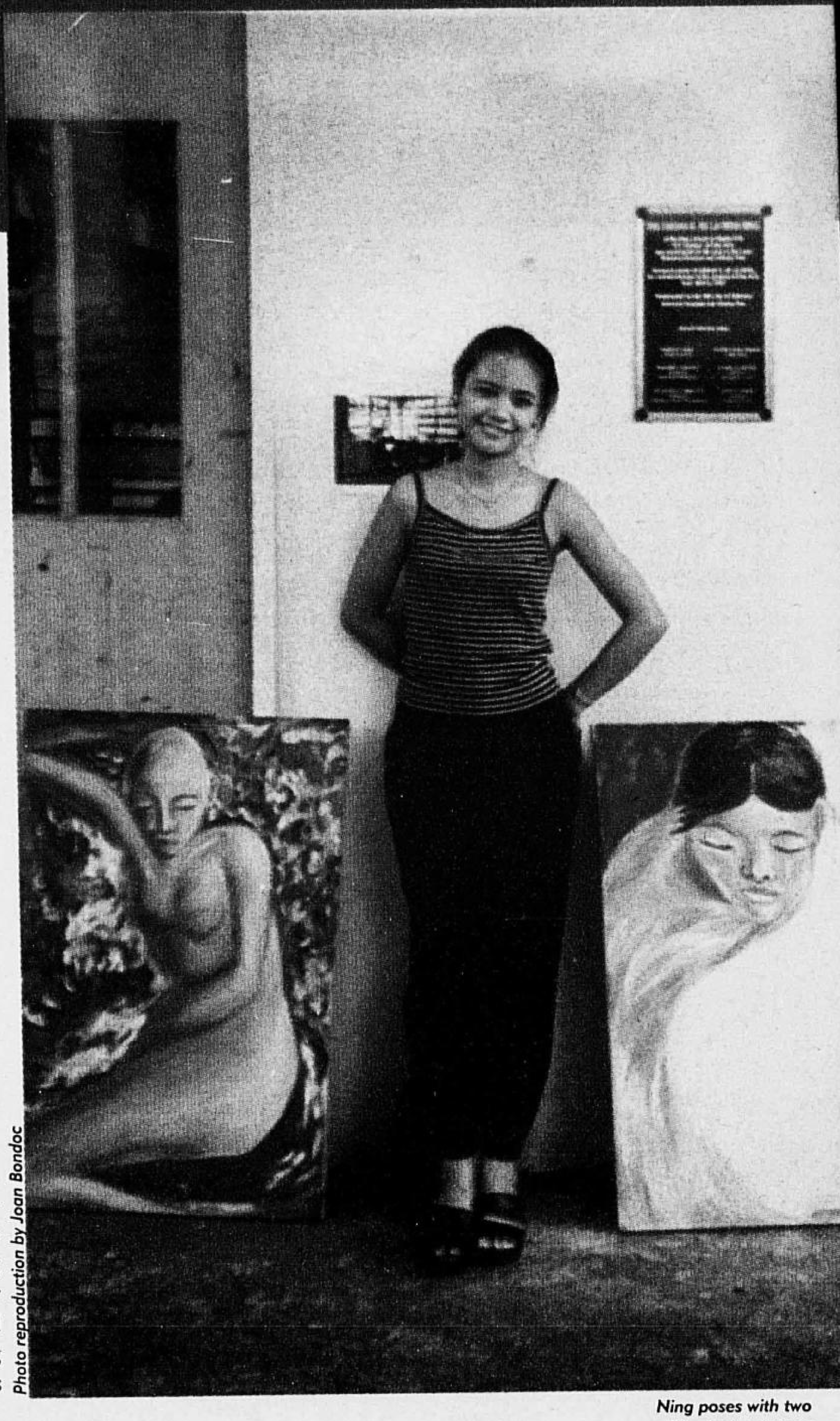


Photo reproduction by Joan Bondoc

Ning poses with two of her last paintings

Yet Ning was willing to risk and find love. "Because of her personality," Banaue remarks, "she was always very serious in her relationships." Yet she would have about five boyfriends. "There was this one guy she had a fling with in 1997," Banaue notes, "with whom she exchanged e-mail until recently. They weren't together for long. She idealized him, put him on a pedestal. Since they didn't meet again, that ideal never wavered."

There was always an elusive fragility to her presence, one that became more pronounced as she grew older. "Even back in China," Banaue says, "it already seemed that she was in a world of her own." Compliments would enter one ear and exit the other. Yet Banaue says her sister would brood over the most innocuous things, like a passing comment from a salesgirl. "It was all such a big thing to her, like 'what did I do,' or 'everybody's mad at me.'"

It was as if she could feel everything in the world and could not shut it out. That frailty was even more vivid in her work. Alma notes that Ning always had a very moody artistic temperament. She would sometimes seem distracted because she had all these ideas in her head. "She can be very warm if you got to know her well," Wendell says, "but she was fragile in a culture-bound sense." Alma always felt that "Ning could never be satisfied." For Ning, it seemed that art was the most important thing of all.

At the Ateneo Library of Women's Writing (ALIWW), Maningning Miclat is represented by one box. In that box, one finds many things that Ning wrote, some in her own lovely, calligraphy-like penmanship. There are also three hardbound collections of her collages from her UP days. Between the pages of paintings and mixed-media work, Ning also included glimpses of her everyday life: a test paper with a Venn Diagram here, a receipt for a Dumaguete ticket there, tickets to plays. A life lived between art.

Ning always strove to create, and create constantly and create better. It was a struggle in solitude for her. In a 1996 speech to students at STC, Ning speaks of this inner challenge: "I don't know what kind of insight I can share with you when I am struggling, struggling so hard just to survive the pressure and frustrations that I have to face every morning in order to produce a body of work that one day I can be sure of. That one day, you, my family, my teachers and friends can be proud of... I don't know how long I can last in this fashion. I thought I was alone in this struggle. Loneliness and depression do strike, and it is very easy to be paranoid. The nights are extremely long, and brownout is a state of mind that I wish to avoid."

Last June, Ning began teaching painting at FEU. But apparently the physical reality of the world she was living in was already beginning to overwhelm her. She was increasingly moody and busy. "She was burned out," Alma explains, "she had a full load at UP where she was taking her MA. She had all these projects. She was just doing everything!"

Then in early September, the news came. Banaue says that Ning read some news on the Internet about the guy she had a fling with back in 1997. "From what she said, I gathered that the guy got married or something. And she told me she had so much love to

In the end, Mario believes that Maninging Miclat's death has a redeeming legacy of its own

give, not just to him, and no one to give it to, and that love could burst and it would kill her." Banaue adds that her sister would also begin to lapse into silence for long periods of time. Then, Mario and Alma left for the United States because of a speaking engagement on September 21. No one imagined that during that time, Ning may already have had plans to exit this existence. She even joked about it to some friends. Tragically, it was no joke.

AFTER letting go, Ning fell until she landed hard on the second floor roof. She had broken her pelvis and had terrible internal injuries but was still alive, though incoherent. In her hand was a photograph of the man she had met in 1997. She was rushed to the United Doctors Medical Center, where surgeons battled to save her life. Meanwhile, Banaue was asleep at the UP condo when she was awakened by a phone call. Even as she gathered her wits about her, Banaue realized that her beloved sister had tried to commit suicide, something unfathomable to her. "They're trying to revive her," the voice on the phone said. Banaue rushed out of the house.

But when Banaue got to the hospital, it was too late. Due to internal hemorrhage, Maningning Miclat was dead at 28. Swallowing the pain in her chest, Banaue did what she always did for her sister: fix her makeup. Yet despite the violence of her death, there was nary a spot on Ning. She even looked like she was just sleeping.

In the United States, a phone call in the middle of the night awakened Alma and Mario. "Ning has had an accident," the caller told them. Alma, imagining her daughter had been maimed, choked up, but decided against telling Mario, who had a heart bypass surgery a few years back. But Mario, suspecting something had gone wrong, went out of the room, and cried.

The next few days were a blur for the two as they endeavored to return home. No one told them that Ning was already dead. Says Mario: "I was thinking we would be heading for the hospital as soon as we touched down." But they never got to the hospital. Upon arriving on September 30 in the dead of night, Mario and Alma were told that their eldest daughter had died.

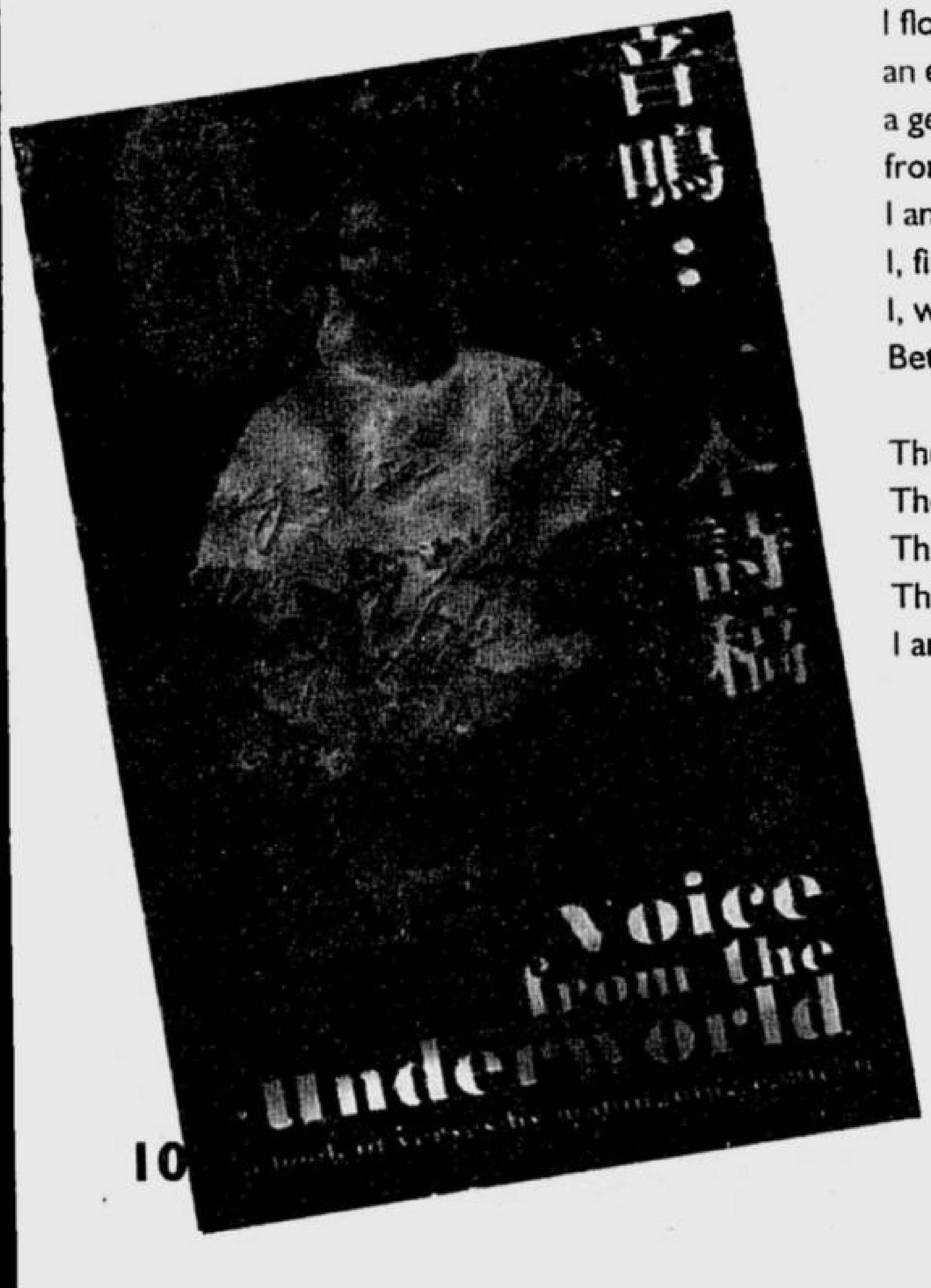
Testimony

The territory of shadows is a petal.
An organic wish, a solidified thought,
An awareness of wind catching fishes,
A gratitude for getting rid of clothes.
With the kind gesture of an evening: low tide and safe,
I am sharing the water with the Hundred Islands.

Floating on the galaxies' reflection,
I float as night sky carves down an embrace,
an elusive feeling of eternity and floating,
a gesture of wind and a bath of moonlight
from the sea bottom. I am the salt in the evening.
I am the celebration of beginnings..
I, finally getting rid of my clothes.
I, weightless, without knowing what.
Between the sky and me is the wind.

There is an ageless consciousness of being a woman.
There is a shapeless idea of being in the water.
There is a testimony of the sky and the earth.
There is no longer the terrestrial truth.
I am no longer a victim of war.

Maningning C. Miclat



An unreal trip to the Funeraria Paz followed. "She was so beautiful," Alma says tearfully. Artists and writers, friends and acquaintances turned out in droves, shocked by the death. "They had put Maningning's possessions in a plastic bag," Mario remembers, "I saw all this blood, and I cried, so I asked them to cremate those things along with her." Maningning Miclat was cremated on October 5, and her ashes eventually interred in the Miclat family's plot in Zambales.

HOW does one make sense of a dove that flies to its own death? Did Maningning Miclat kill herself because of a spurned love, or did she succumb to a deeper despair? Banaue believes that the news from the Net was merely the trigger, the straw that broke the camel's delicate back. "I guess it was like she already had all these reasons, but she wanted a more concrete reason to do it." For Wendell, Ning's suicide was "an act of courage and a desire to achieve inner peace. Her spirituality is very much different from ours."

Dr. Joselito Pascual, a clinical associate at the UP-PGH Department of Psychiatry and Behavior, notes that "there is no scientific evidence that writers and artists are more prone to kill themselves compared to the general population." He adds, "Artists, just like everyone else, commit suicide as a way out of a problem or crisis that is invariably causing intense suffering. Suffering may be associated with thwarted or unfulfilled needs, feelings of hopelessness and helplessness, ambivalent conflicts between survival and unbearable stress, a narrowing of perceived options, and a need for escape."

Alma believes Ning "was too fragile for this world. This world is too violent, this world is too cruel." Yet Alma notes her daughter seemed to have a lot of plans. "She believed in another life, and I read something she wrote that said she was looking forward to another life where she will be a better painter, a better artist." She cannot ever be angry with Ning.

The holidays have been difficult for the Miclats. But they did not forget Ning as they gave her a lovely angel night lamp for Christmas. Something she would have liked. They all miss her. Banaue, now 21, still talks to her as if she were still around, like an invisible *ate*. Mario still dreams of her, more recently, as a child. Because she was my baby," Mario smiles. They still cry sometimes, whenever something reminds them of Ning. In the meantime, they continue with their lives, with Mario dispensing his duties at UP's Asian Center and the Sentro ng Wikang Pilipino, and Alma working as an assistant vice president for sales at a computer systems support company. Banaue works as a freelance theater artist.

But the search for closure continues. Wendell believes that Ning is finally at peace and says, "Her death made me realize how short life is and how we should not take our family and friends for granted." Ning will be honored during a month-long exhibit of her paintings and manuscripts at Ateneo's ALIWW starting March 1. And Alma hopes to put together a book of essays by Mario and Ning. Then there's the plan to put up a foundation in Ning's memory, one that would support an annual Maningning Miclat prize for poetry and/or painting for those 28 and below. People just like Ning.

In the end, Mario believes that Maninging Miclat's death has a redeeming legacy of its own, a reminder of art's prize and price, the frailty of existence, and one daughter's sacrifice. "We are artists," he says. "So we must do the best we can as artists. Painters, paint the best we can. Write what we feel we should write. And if any artist has self-destructive tendencies, don't do it. Maningning had already died for them. So they must choose life." ◻

by Anton San Diego

CHUCK Mathay

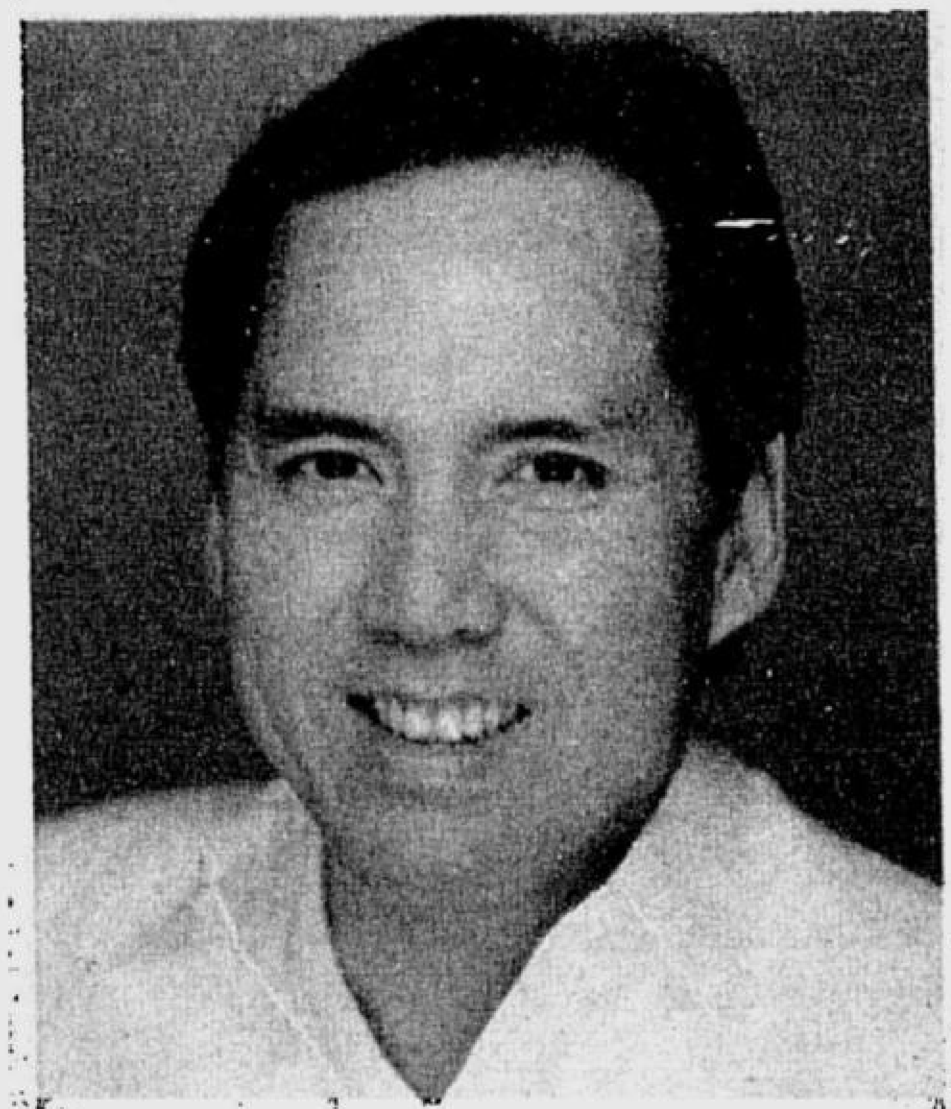
WHOEVER THOUGHT OF THE ADAGE "SILENT WATERS RUN DEEP," WAS PERHAPS THINKING OF SOMEONE LIKE CHUCK MATHAY. KNOWN TO BE A MAN OF FEW WORDS, CHUCK HAS DEFIED CONVENTION AND EXPECTATIONS BY BEING THE COMPLETE ANTITHESIS OF YOUR TYPICAL GLIB *POLITICO.* OPTING TO WORK BEHIND THE SCENES, THE SHY AND UNASSUMING CHUCK PREFERS TO GET THINGS DONE HIS OWN WAY MINUS THE FUSS.

No wonder it came as a surprise when Chuck became embroiled in a family drama that involved previously unacknowledged daughter Ara Mina (Hazel to the Mathays). His public admission of siring the bold starlet elicited empathy and consequently increased the public's awareness of him. Some quarters insist that this could be Chuck's key to political stardom, but there are those who would argue that the Mathay name is still his passport to the voters' hearts.

While Chuck candidly admits to benefiting from both, he believes his five years' continued service to Quezon City as chair of the Pusong Makabayan Foundation Inc. should speak for him. Chuck is quick to acknowledge the privileges attached to being a mayor's son, but counters it by saying: "I could have opted for the easy life with all the perks, minus the responsibilities. But here I am putting my so-called advantage to better use by helping those in need. I see no crime in that."

Then there's the inevitable comparison between Chuck and his father, QC Mayor Mel Mathay. Can he equal, if not surpass, his father's record? He paused and stressed what an honor it is to be his father's son. "I can never thank my father enough for what he has done and for what he has been to me. I owe him this opportunity to be in public service." Chuck then emphasized his vision for continuity: "As my father's son, I am duty-bound to uphold our good name, but I am my own person and how I see to the implementation of our programs will spell the difference between father and son."

All in the family: (L-R) daughter Nicole, wife Neriza, Macky, Hazel (Ara Mina) and Chris.



Jun de Leon

Mathay: "I am my own person"

The distinction is more evident when one considers how Chuck has led his life prior to his entry into politics. As a businessman, he is CEO of Global High Technologies Network Inc. (GHT), which is into infotainment technology. Similarly, he put to good use his passion for cars by converting it into a lucrative business.

Chuck is married to stylish businesswoman Neriza and is father to Macky, Chris, Nicole and now, Hazel. At the height of the Ara Mina controversy, his family has stood firm and solid behind him.

Given all these, there seems to be no reason why Chuck would find it difficult to emerge from his father's shadow. All signs show that soon enough, the son will shine as well.

This is His World.

Morning ritual
Check on my schedule, a quick breakfast, a buss on my wife's cheek and then I run off to my first appointment for the day.

What will you never do?
Boast.

Greatest luxury.
Sundays: sleep and leisurely time spent with my family.

The Word

by Fr. Ruben J. Villote

"Hello, Jubilee!" "Goodbye, Jubilee!"

"The best and the worst among us are being identified: the Good are revealed and honored as heroes, and the Evil unmasked as the heels"

Reflection One

THE GREAT JUBILEE YEAR 2000 CAME AND WENT. WHAT HAPPENED TO US IN BETWEEN?

In Luke 4:21-30, Jesus had come to visit Nazareth (the place where he grew up), and before the day was over, he was gone! What happened to Nazareth in between?

At Nazareth, Jesus was welcomed with great jubilation like one country boy leaving for the big city, and returning to "bring home the bacon." From a little carpenter-boy, Jesus had grown into a celebrity preacher and wonder-worker. All Nazareth, eager to have a piece of the bacon and to share in the glory and glitz of the young man's success, proudly came out into the streets to meet their village hero. "Hello, Jesus!" they must have yelled until their throats hurt.

The synagogue congregation at Nazareth visualized a homecoming "messiah in all his glory" (contemporary version: gold, goons and guns) swooping down on his pagan enemies to save the Jews, and only the Jews.

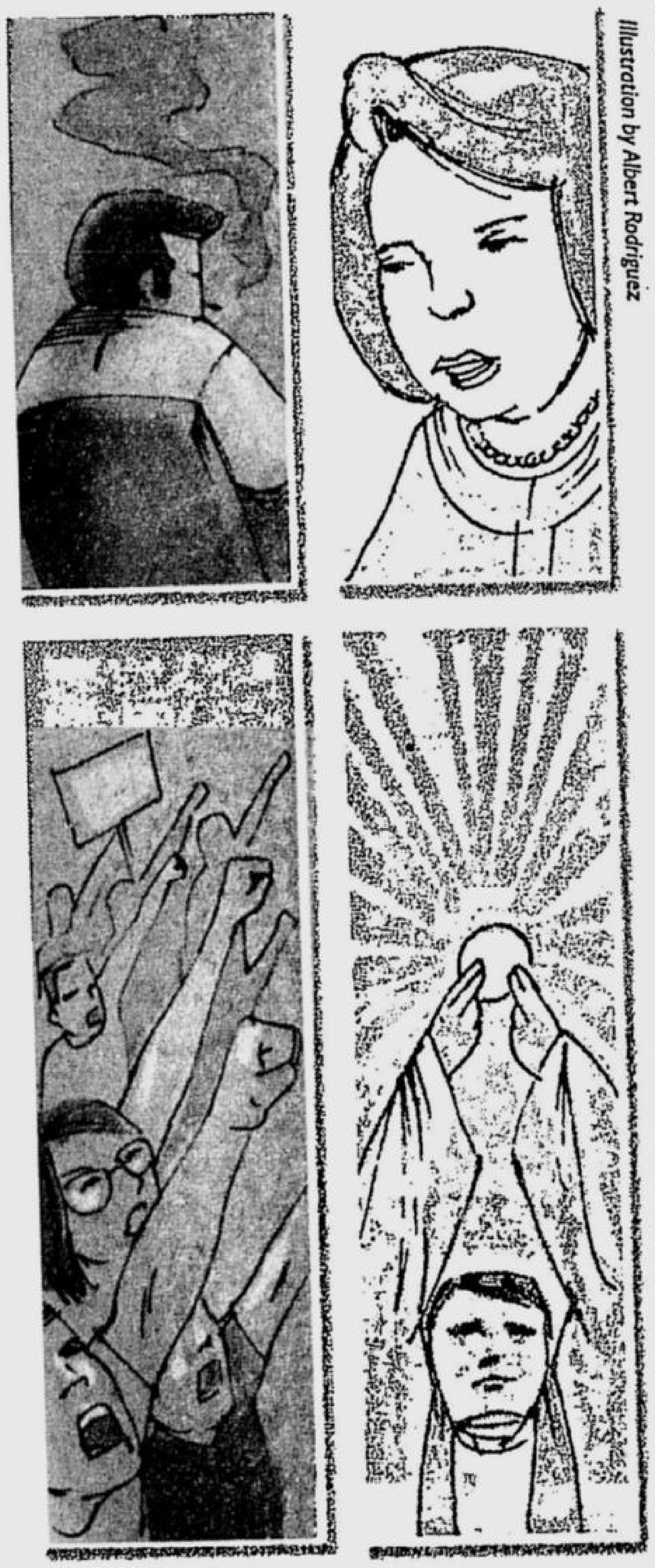


Illustration by Albert Rodriguez

So when this man Jesus (still in his carpenter's clothes, not in a king's robes) began to preach the exact opposite of what his listeners expected (about the blessedness of the poor and the oppressed, the acceptability in God's eyes even of pagans, and the moral ascendancy required of the leaders, prophets and shepherds of the people), the synagogue worshippers "were filled with rage, rose up and drove Jesus out of the town" (v. 29). "Goodbye, Jesus!" the villagers must have snarled at him, "We'll have absolutely nothing to do with your jubilee message."

"Goodbye, Nazareth!" Jesus must have said as he walked away and disappeared. And he never set foot on Nazareth again.

Reflection Two

Last year at about this time, we cried "Hello, Jubilee!" as we welcomed the Great Jubilee Year of Christ's birth with much rapture and ritual. We joined processions, Eucharistic vigils, retreats and pilgrimages, and "collected" plenary indulgences for the "conversion of sinners, the renewal of communities and the restoration of all things in Christ." It was the start of an intense and sustained ecclesial experience of jubilation and expectation, a "sweet lovin' feeling" of a divine promise about to be fulfilled (2 Pet. 2:9-14). The scriptural readings meanwhile were all about the "end times," about cosmic upheavals, about the disorientation and destabilization of the heavens and earth, and about the "global purification of the living."

Mid-November

It was just about the time for me to begin sending my Christmas cards and letters to my friends here and abroad. The season of Advent was about to start and the Jubilee Year was about to end. I did not know exactly what to say in my greetings. Should it be about a coming "merry" Christmas and a "happy" new year as usual? Or should it be about my honest fear of something painful and purifying about to happen to the Filipino to end the Jubilee Year?

December 6, I just found myself writing these lines on my first

Christmas letter:

"Amazing graces await you as the Great Jubilee Year ends. Prepare your heart for God's gentle visitation. Just wait in Hope and see with New Eyes what God has prepared for those who trust Him."

December 7, eve of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, was Day One of the Impeachment Trial of President Estrada. The following days and weeks were tortuous and chastising times for the Filipino people. Angry confrontation, commotion, division and even violence brought about by the political upheaval were making us feel like we were beginning to experience the first terrible tremors of the Last Days as foretold in the Scriptures.

But I still believed in my heart what I wrote in my Christmas cards and letters to friends. "Amazing graces await you as the Great Jubilee Year ends."

16 November 2001

The ceremonials and euphoria of the Great Jubilee Year are over but the spirit and action of the Lord Jesus have just begun to stir among us.

Luke 2:34-35:

"Jesus will be the cause of the fall and rise of many in this land; he will become a sign which will meet much opposition. And all this will happen so that the secret thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. . . And a sword will pierce your heart."

This sounds like a latter-day prophecy unfolding before our eyes. The best and the worst among us are being identified: the Good are revealed and honored as heroes, and the Evil unmasked as the heels. Truth is manifested but contradicted. Evil is disguised as Good, and vice versa, causing much confusion and sadness, the rise and fall of many innocents especially at the impeachment and post-impeachment arena "piercing the hearts of many Filipinos like a sword".

The Jubilee is not over yet. The Jubilee tree is still blooming and bearing much fruit. The Jubilee prophecy still has much to reveal. Wondrous epiphanies are forthcoming. Let us open our hearts and prepare for a homecoming.

Special Series
by Aida Sevilla Mendoza

Under the New Family Code, psychological incapacity is a valid ground to declare the nullity of a marriage. But how does one define the term, and who defines it?

A Case of Opposing and Conflicting Personalities

(Part 1)

The following story is based on a case that reached the Office of Solicitor General Raul I. Goco during the 1990s. A law graduate of Ateneo University who studied in the United States as a government scholar, Mr. Goco engaged in private law practice and served as legal counsel to several government agencies before he was appointed Solicitor General in August 1992 by then President Ramos.

In September 1996, he was appointed Philippine Ambassador to Canada and ended his tour of duty in June 1998. In November 1996, Ambassador Goco became the first Filipino to be elected by the United Nations General Assembly to the 34-member UN International Law Commission as a member/jurist, a position he still holds today. A charter governor and former vice president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, Mr. Goco is also dean of the College of Law and a trustee of the board of regents of the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, a Bar Examiner on Labor and Social Legislation, a member of the New York State Bar, president of the Philippine British Society, a director of the Fellows of Asia Foundation and a recipient of several awards for being an outstanding lawyer. Except for the name of Mr. Goco, the names of all the persons and places involved and other identifying aspects have been changed. The legal facts of the case however remain.

IN AUGUST 1990, A CASE WAS FILED THAT WAS TO RESULT IN A CLEAR INTERPRETATION BY THE SUPREME COURT OF THE MEANING OF PSYCHOLOGICAL INCAPACITY AS A GROUND FOR DECLARING A MARRIAGE VOID. THIS GROUND FOR ANNULMENT IS FOUND IN ARTICLE 36 OF THE NEW FAMILY CODE (EO 277), WHICH READS: "A MARRIAGE CONTRACTED BY ANY PARTY WHO, AT THE TIME OF THE CELEBRATION, WAS PSYCHOLOGICALLY INCAPACITATED TO COMPLY WITH THE ESSENTIAL MARITAL OBLIGATIONS OF MARRIAGE, SHALL LIKEWISE BE VOID EVEN IF SUCH INCAPACITY BECOMES MANIFEST ONLY AFTER ITS SOLEMNIZATION."

Before this case was brought to the Supreme Court, because the new Family Code lacked examples and a clear definition of the phrase "psychologically incapacitated to comply with the essential marital obligations," the trial courts had been giving varied interpretations, depending on the facts and evidence presented. The need for a more definitive ruling persisted even after the SC, in the case of Leonel Santos vs Court of Appeals (240 SCRA 20, January 24, 1995) ruled that psychological incapacity should refer to no less than a mental, not physical, incapacity. This state of affairs encouraged some lawyers to cite "psychological incapacity" on the part of one of the spouses as ground for annulment, although there was no real basis for doing so.

Mike Alquinto

Former Solicitor General Raul Goco

In the case on which this story is based, it was the wife, Estelita Sebit Plaraso, who filed before the Regional Trial Court of Manila a petition to declare the nullity of her marriage to Oscar Plaraso. Estelita Sebit and Oscar Plaraso were college sweethearts who broke up after a year of going steady because of personality differences. However, five years later, when she was working as a bank teller and he began working as a creative writer for an advertising agency in Makati, their paths crossed again and they started dating anew. After a courtship lasting almost two years and believing that they knew each other well enough, the couple got married at the Ermita Church. They settled down in a rented apartment and a year later, Estelita gave birth to a baby girl, Ofelia.

Shortly after Ofelia's birth, Oscar came home one day and told Estelita that he had acquired a townhouse in Quezon City for P2 million. Estelita asked him where he got the money and he replied that it was an interest-free loan from his parents. They moved into the townhouse but she soon discovered, Estelita told the court later, that Oscar had never bought it and that his parents were paying the rent.

This deception was one of the incidents cited by Estelita in her petition filed five years after their wedding, as an example of Oscar's "immaturity and irresponsibility." In addition, Estelita said, instead of staying with his family during his free time, Oscar preferred to go out carousing with his friends, splurging his salary in the process. Oscar's nocturnal sorties not only triggered quarrels between husband and wife, but also caused him to report late for work, if at all. Soon enough, Oscar lost his job and left his wife and daughter to move in with his parents in San Pablo City. Thus, Estelita's lawyer contended, Oscar was an irresponsible and quarrelsome husband who demanded to be served like a king and showed that he was psychologically incapable of complying with his marital obligations.

In his answer, Oscar Plaraso admitted that he could no longer live with his wife. But he blamed their frequent quarrels on her "strange behavior" in maintaining her group of friends even after their marriage. He also alleged that Estelita refused to perform her marital duties, such as cooking meals and managing the household. As a bank teller, Oscar asserted, Estelita was capable of handling their finances but for some reason refused to do so.

At the pre-trial conference the following October, Estelita and Oscar stipulated the following facts: that they had been separated for three years; that she was not seeking support for herself and Ofelia; that Oscar was not claiming for damages; and that Ofelia would remain in Estelita's custody. Several witnesses, including a social worker and a psychiatrist, appeared for petitioner Estelita but respondent Oscar did not present any evidence or witnesses and showed up only for the pre-trial conference.

Estelita testified during the hearing that, being "immature, irresponsible, dependent, disrespectful, arrogant, a chronic liar and an infidel," her husband was psychologically incapacitated to comply with his marital obligations. As proof, she cited Oscar's lies about the townhouse, his salary and position; his failure to find another job after he was fired from the advertising agency; his abandonment of her and their daughter; his subsequent failure to support her and

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The Beauty Pill: Advanced product from U.S., ENVIE provides new dimension in skin care.

It is no secret that many of the recent developments in skin care stem from a greater understanding of the important role vitamins and other nutritional building blocks play in regulating your appearance. The basic understanding is this: If you don't provide your body certain key elements in sufficient quality and abundance, your skin may not heal the scars of adolescence properly and will eventually show the deteriorating signs associated with aging. The nutraceutical experts at Prosource have imported Envie from the United States to give Filipinos the opportunity to reap the benefits of one of the most sophisticated nutritionally based dermal-improvement products ever developed.

In the past few years, you have probably noticed beauty products using vitamins and other nutrient compounds as gimmicks to sell their products. Lotions, shampoos, skin whiteners, and even cosmetics all offering to deliver a finer appearance by rubbing these necessary elements on various parts of the body. While these products provide limited temporary benefits, a basic understanding of how the skin works reveals that nourishing the skin simply by applying substances topically is clearly not enough.

The Limitations of External Treatments

The skin is composed of several layers generally referred to as Dermal, and Epidermal layers. The topmost layer of skin is called the Epidermis. Its principal function is to keep foreign elements from entering the body. This means that most substances applied directly to the skin will very likely stay there and not penetrate to any of the lower dermal layers where new skin cells are actually manufactured. This means that the only skin cells likely to be affected by vitamin enriched cosmetic products will be those on top. Unfortunately, these cells are already dead or at the end of their development cycle and will be unable to utilize nutritional elements the way newer cells would. Topically applied nutrients therefore cannot dramatically improve the quality of the skin by themselves because the damage has already done to the epidermal layers these products reach. It would be like painting the car, after it has already rusted. Some even go so far as to scrub off the upper most epidermal layers to allow better absorption of these products. Aside from possibly damaging themselves, this method will not accomplish much. The only way to directly access the dermal layers would be to completely remove the epidermis, at which point your skin would more closely resemble raw hamburger than anything else. Most of all, since the skin is constantly replacing itself, any superficial treatments are very temporary in nature. Even plastic surgery does nothing to improve dermal health. The most effective way to improve the skin is by providing it the nutrients it needs to make healthy skin cells by ingesting (eating) the proper substances, and letting the body's natural digestion and circulation system take care of the rest.

Feeding Your Skin Properly

The real root of the problem is collagen production. Collagen is the basic material your skin is made of, and how your body processes it is what really determines how young your skin will look.

Collagen fibers comprise the structural matrix of dermal tissue. The outer layers of skin are being constantly damaged by exposure to the elements and must be constantly replaced. The body is limited by the quality of the materials it has to make collagen and other skin components with. Envie provides a plentiful supply of optimal collagen precursors plus the supporting elements the body needs to produce better quality skin cells.

Envie also provides a variety of additional elements that are vital to promoting healthy skin, such as metabolic regulators, immune system enhancers, vascular strengtheners and nutrient rich super-foods like Blue Algae and Spirulina.

PCO: Envie's Secret Weapon

Envie infuses the body with a wide variety of general and skin specific antioxidants providing very thorough protection from premature aging factors. The most powerful of these is PCO, a naturally occurring substance found in the seeds of grapes. Its antioxidant properties are twenty to fifty times more potent than more conventional antioxidants like vitamins C and E, respectively. PCO also tends to concentrate at the dermal layers of the skin for maximum protection of the delicate, newly formed skin cells. The majority of premature aging is due to oxidative damage caused by environmental exposure. Additionally, ultraviolet radiation from the sun damages the tiny network of blood vessels that provide nourishment and hydration while removing waste products and toxins from the living dermal layers. Environmental toxins and U.V. radiation have also been associated with the development of skin cancer so it is very important to do all you can to minimize their effect on your body. Antioxidants are molecules that prevent these poisons from causing cellular damage to the body by interacting with them at the molecular level causing their damaging capabilities to be neutralized.

The Results

Envie's initial introduction into Asia was very successful creating a loyal, if somewhat exclusive following. Users of Envie have reported noticing results such as the shrinking of scars, fading of discoloration, reduction in wrinkles, disappearing acne, better complexion, firmer skin, and a generally more attractive appearance. Older users have also noticed that their liver spots gradually went away with continues use of the product. Many have mentioned that these effects were not noticed first by themselves, but by their spouses, partners, friends and co-workers. Probably the most startling thing about Envie is how quickly it works. Taking just a single tablet daily has produced noticeable results in as little as ten days for some, thirty days for most. These results gained are permanent and will continue to be realized as long as the skin does not lapse back to its earlier malnourished state.

Envie will be available at Mercury, I-Mart and other health stores in Metro Manila starting in January 2001.

This Week

Art

Angelito Antonio: Recent Drawings, on exhibit at the Drawing Room (1007 Metropolitan Ave., Metrostar Bldg, Makati City), till Jan. 31. For details, call 897-7877 or 897-6990.

Group Photo, photo exhibit celebrating the coming together of a community. Includes photos by Ronald Anading, Bahaghari, Gari Buenavista, Ringo Bunoan, Katya Guerrero, Jun Sabayton, and Arvin Viola. (66B Doña Juana Rodriguez St., New Manila, Quezon City). Till January 31. For details, call 414-7451.

Malang's Siyudad@Buhay, the artist's birthday exhibit. Includes Malang's recent oils, gouache and selected sketches and drawings. Until Feb. 5 at the West Gallery (Marisan Center , 48 West Ave., QC). For inquiries, call 411-0336 & 411-9221.

Landscapes. Paintings by Mario A. Parial at the Blind Tiger, 13 Visayas Ave., QC. For details, call 929-1158/928-1160.

Picture Trip: Snapshots from the Road, a group photo exhibit featuring images of New York, Paris, Amsterdam, Brussels, Berlin and Cologne by Nana Buxani, Raymond Panaligan and Kat Palasi at the Alcove (Filipinas Heritage Library along Makati Ave., Ayala Triangle, Makati City) till Jan. 31. For details, call 892-1801.

Siglo Ikalabinsiyam **(19th Century)**, an exhibit featuring portraits, *tipos del pais*, landscape paintings and *letras y figuras* by Filipino masters, at the Metropolitan Museum (Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Roxas Boulevard, Manila). Till Jan. 31. For booking of group tours, call 523-7855.

Jesuit Vocation Seminar for male college students and young professionals who may want to know more about a possible call to priesthood and the religious life. Today at the Loyola House of Studies, Ateneo campus, Quezon City. For details, call 426-6101 or e-mail vocprom@vasia.com

Music

Ethnic Thursday Nights with Kontra-GaPi in UP. A series of weekly activities with the UP College of Arts and Letters' resident ethnic music and dance ensemble led by Edru Abraham every Thursday at 5:30 p.m at Quezon Hall, UP Diliman, QC. All performances, workshops, demonstrations, lectures and interaction with Filipino and foreign world music exponents are free.

Paco Park Presents "Classical Romance" with flutist Sonny Yangco and pianist Ena Aldecoa. Feb. 2, 6 p.m. Free admission.

Mula sa Cainta, featuring Los Trobadores Rondalla and Cainta Cultural Dance. Feb. 4, 5 p.m. at the Rizal Park open-air auditorium, Manila. Free admission.

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Formula Sports Café (638-5547/48)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

Onstage

The CCP's resident theater company Tanghalang Pilipino presents William Shakespeare's **Hamlet** in English, starring Niccolo Manahan as Hamlet, directed by Paul Dumol, with the Actor's Company and students from the University of Asia & the Pacific at the CCP's Tanghalang Huseng Batute. The show runs every Friday at 8 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday at 3 p.m. till February 4. For details, call 832-3661, 832-1125 local 1620, 434-4181, and 436-8486.

Atbpa

Mega Magazine will hold the 6th **Annual Ladies Cup** golf tournament on Feb. 22 at the Tagaytay Midlands. Registration is ongoing. For details, call 631-2859 local 16 and 18.

Filipino sign language classes at the School of Special Studies, DLSU-College of Saint Benilde, 2544 Taft Ave., Manila. For details, call 526-7441 to 47 local 131.

Photoworld Manila 2001. The country is host to the biggest photography event in Southeast Asia, till Jan. 31 at the Glorietta, Ayala Center, Makati City, with the theme "Infinite Creativity—Video, Imaging and Photography." There are seminars and lectures, latest in photo technology and equipment and awarding of top photographers. For details, visit the PMW secretariat at 7/F Comfoods Bldg., cor. Gil Puyat Avenue, Pasong Tamo Street, Makati City, call 843-5341, fax 813-7420 or email ppfpwm@pacific.net.ph

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules and tickets. You can reach us by e-mail at sim@inquirer.com.ph or by fax at 897-4811.

SPECIAL SERIES...from page 13

their daughter; his dependence on his parents for support as he had no savings and splurged whatever money he got on partying with his friends; and finally, his cohabiting with his mistress and illegitimate son, which he did not bother to deny.

In May 1991, the trial court rendered judgment declaring the marriage void. The court found it "unfortunate" that the marriage had turned sour after a two-year relationship during which the couple got to know each other well and seemed prepared for married life. During the marriage, however, the court noted, the true personalities of the spouses emerged and dominated their life together. Unexpectedly, the court said, the parties "failed to respond properly to the situation" and this failure resulted in their frequent quarrels and eventual estrangement despite attempts by their parents to intervene and arrange a reconciliation.

"It seems clear at this stage that the marriage between the parties broke up because of their opposing and conflicting personalities," the court ruled. "Neither of them can accept and understand the weakness of the other. No one gives in and instead, blames each other for whatever problem or misunderstanding/s they encounter. In fine, respondent cannot be solely responsible for the failure of their marriage. Rather, this resulted because both parties cannot relate to each other as husband and wife which is unique and requisite in marriage. (sic)"

For some unknown reason, Oscar Plaraso appealed the decision of the trial court. Since annulment cases elevated to the Court of Appeals are automatically referred to the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG), the case came to the attention of Solicitor General Raul I. Goco. The SolGen's role in such cases is to intervene on behalf of the State, marriage being not just a contract between two persons but a social institution that the State seeks to preserve. The SolGen must thus determine whether collusion exists between the parties and must make sure that the evidence for the plaintiff is not fabricated or suppressed. Moreover, the SolGen is allowed to challenge the trial court's decision should he find an error in it.

(TO BE CONCLUDED NEXT WEEK)

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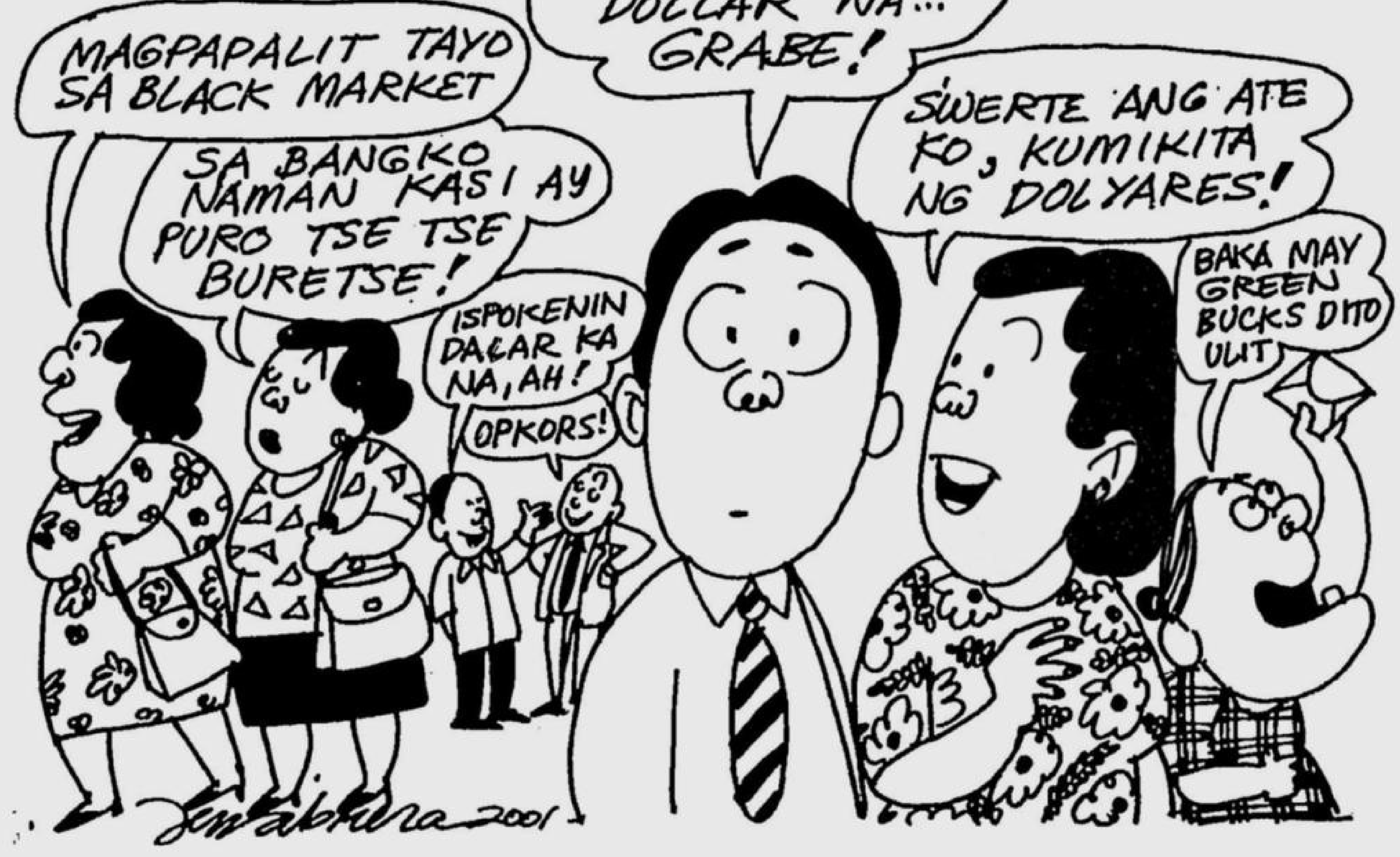
Soon enough, Oscar lost his job and left his wife and daughter to move back with his parents in San Pablo City

Pinoy NGA!

by Jess Abrera

Dolyar


MAGPAPALIT TAYO SA BLACK MARKET
SA BANGKO NAMAN KASI AY PURO TSE TSE BURETSE!
ISPOKENIN DALAR KA NA, AH!
OPKORS!
₱52.00 TO A DOLLAR NA... GRABE!
SWERTE ANG ATE KO, KUMIKITA NG DOLYARES!
BAKA MAY GREEN BUCKS DITO ULIT
Jess Abrera 2001

HIS WORLD...from page 11

Family heritage. As a toddler, with father, Mel Mathay and mother, Sonia

Greatest fear.
Failure.

What are the weaknesse you fall prey to?
Poor time management.

What's the best thing your parents taught you?
Take responsibility fully and openly. Never duck no matter how hard you're hit.

Define earthy happiness.
A problem solved and a job well done.

Who would you like to be?
My father, Mayor Ismael A. Mathay, Jr., a man with the heart of a leader and the vision of a true public servant.

What upsets you?
False accusations. Unfounded rumors.

What trait do you deplore in yourself/others?
Myself : I'm too much of a workaholic.
Others: Disloyalty. Inconsistency.

If I were president, I would...
Survive the impeachment trial and fulfill my duly sworn oath to the Filipino people.

How do you overcome obstacles and problems in life?
Prayer strengthens my faith in the midst of adversity.

An event in your life that taught you an important lesson.
The 1995 congressional race.

What do you value most in a friend?
Unwavering loyalty.

What's the one thing that you don't have that you wish you had?
The eloquence of my father.

Favorite memory as a child.
During lunch breaks in San Beda, I'd rush to my grandmother's grocery in P. Campa because whoever finishes lunch first gets those hard-to-find imported chocolates as prize.

If you could go back in time 10 years ago, what would you advise yourself to do or not to do?
Get into public service sooner.

Define success.
Earning the trust, confidence and mandate of the people.

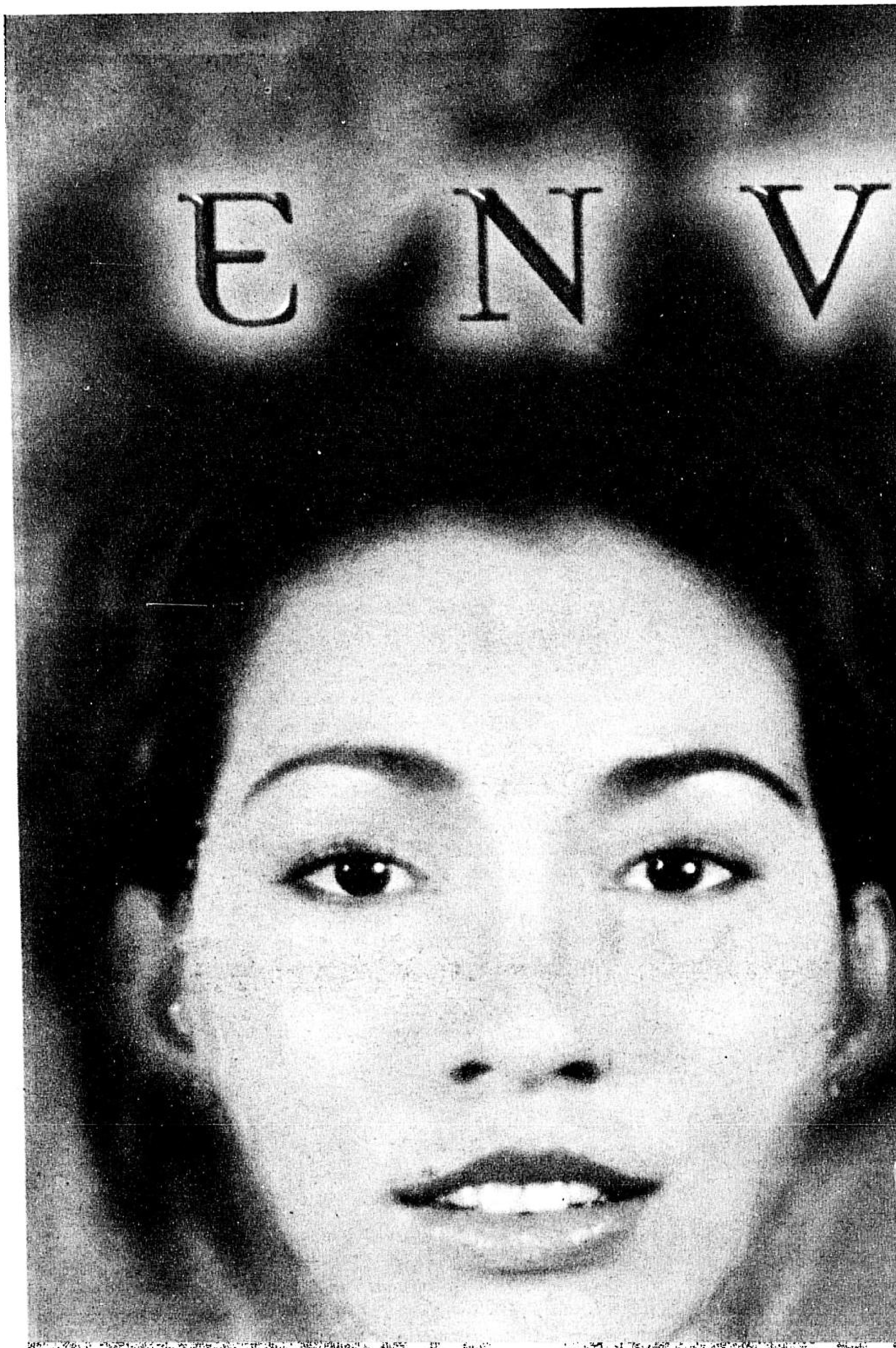
First ambition when you were young.
To be a successful businessman.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?
Ask me again after May 14, 2001.

The greatest teaching you have learned so far.
If I can pass on to my children even half of what my father has taught me, I am a lucky man.

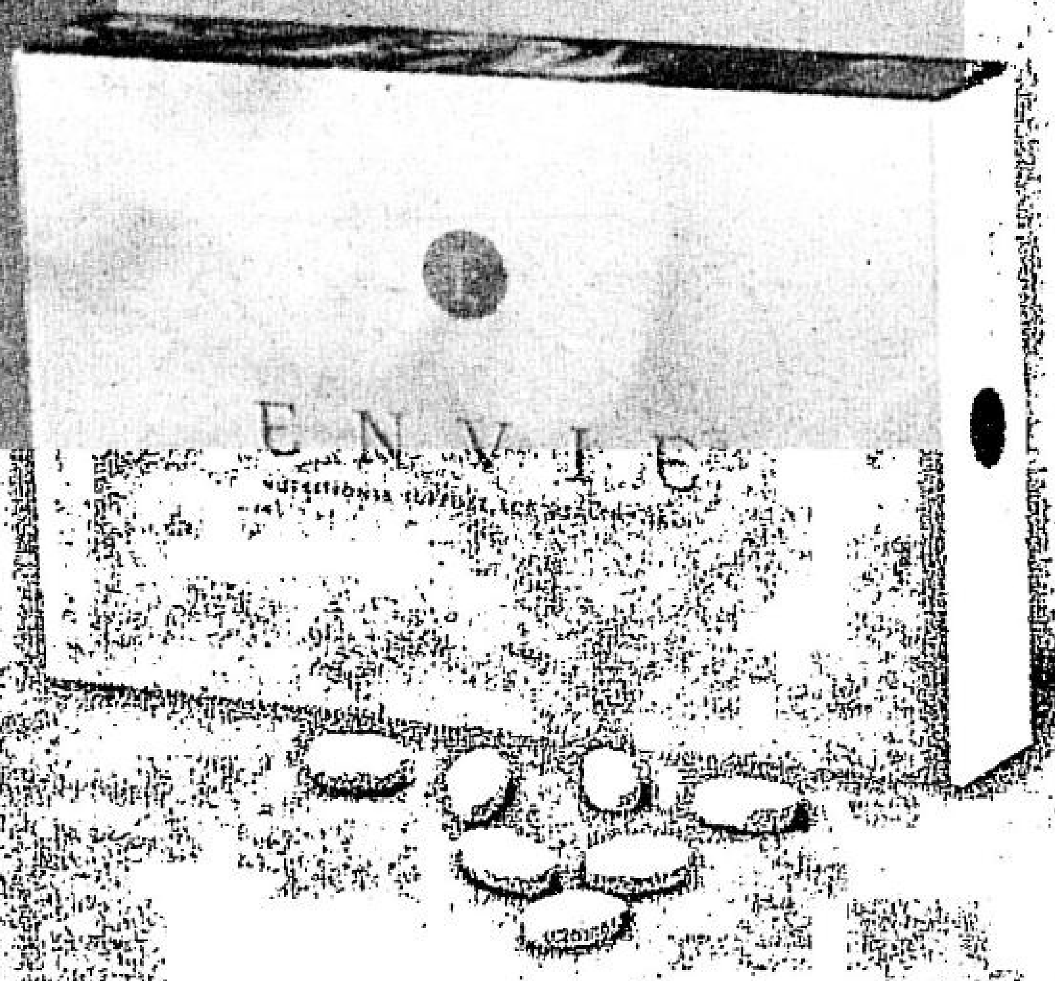
For comments pls. e-mail asd_world@hotmail.com

ENVIE



The Beauty Pill

When you were a child,
your body made perfect skin
As you age,
U.V. damage, hormones, pollutants,
poor diet and stress conspire to rob
you of that flawless appearance
Now
You can reverse those damaging
effects by taking ENVIE
The next generation in Antioxidant
and Healthy Collagen Development
for your skin



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